REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1905-1906.

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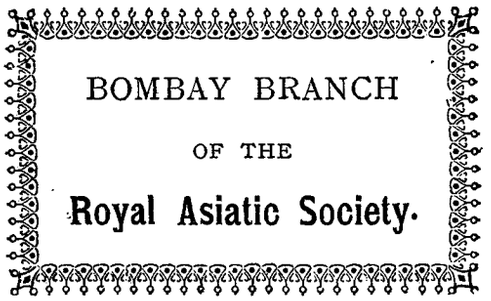

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ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1905-1906.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR IN 1905-1906.

The Hon'ble Mr. Fuller, C.S.I., C.I.E., was Chief Commissioner of the Province of Assam up to the 16th of October 1905. On that date, the province was amalgamated with fourteen districts of Eastern Bengal and converted into a Lieutenant-Governorship, with the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller as the first Lieutenant-Governor. On the first day of January 1906, he was made a K.C.S.I., and took his title as Sir Bampfylde Fuller.

Tours.

2. The Chief Commissioner made a short tour in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the latter part of May and returned to Shillong in the beginning of June. He went out again on his monsoon tour from the 20th of July to the 16th of August, and travelled through Kamrup, Sibsagar, Darrang, Goalpara, and Sylhet. He also visited Dacca at the desire of the Government of India to confirm its suitability as the capital of the new province. After the formation of the new province, the Lieutenant-Governor started on his first cold-weather tour on the 30th of October, and visited Kamrup, Dacca, Agra (to meet His Excellency the Viceroy), Dhubri, and the transferred districts of Faridpur, Pabna, Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Chittagong, and Bakarganj. At Christmas, during the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, His Honour went to Calcutta for a few days, and from there proceeded to Tippera, Noakhali, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Jorhat, the Naga Hills and Nowgong, returning to Shillong on the 7th of April 1906. During his tour, His Honour inspected local institutions, and enquired personally into the projects and requirements of the places visited. He also discussed matters of local importance with the officers on the spot, and made the acquaintance of the principal residents of the districts. He received a large number of addresses from the Muhammadans of the localities visited, and, in certain places, from the District Boards and Municipal Committees. All classes and individuals were accorded a sympathetic hearing, and many hours were spent in giving personal interviews to the principal gentlemen of each town. Besides these matters of general interest, he laid the foundation-stone of a female ward for the General Hospital at Chittagong, and inspected the port and the site of the new jetty. At Dacca, the provincial capital, where he halted from the 1st of February to the 8th of March, he selected the sites for the Government House, official residences, and the various Government offices. He inspected the progress made in the works in connection with the shifting of the headquarters of the Sibsagar district from Sibsagar to Jorhat, and directed some additions and alterations to be made. At Kohima he was present at a unique gathering of about 10,000 Naga warriors, who had come under their Chiefs from all parts of the Naga Hills to pay their respects to him. In the afternoon the various clans were marshalled on the Military Police parade ground, and, after marching past, broke up in separate groups, and gave a display of their different war dances. In the evening they were feasted by the Lieutenant-Governor.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the administration.

3. The most important administrative event of the year was the formation of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, administered by a Lieutenant-Governor, a Legislative Council, and a Board of Revenue. Among other changes may be mentioned the appointment of an Additional Judge for Sylhet, Cachar, and Bakarganj, the extension of the jurisdiction of the District Judge of Sylhet to Cachar, the transfer of the district of Jalpaiguri to the jurisdiction of the District Judge of Dinajpur, and the reorganisation of the Registration and Police Departments.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Hill Tippera.

4. The year was not a favourable one for all classes of the people in Hill Tippera. The outturn of the rice crop, consequent upon the heavy and untimely fall of rain, was poor. Cotton, however, yielded an excellent return, and the gross revenue realized was the highest on record. Scarcity prevailed to some extent in the Udaipur division, and adequate measures were taken to meet it. The health of the people was, on the whole, good, and the number of immigrants exceeded the number of emigrants.

Manipur.

5. In spite of heavy floods in June, August, and September, which did considerable damage to the crops, the year was, on the whole, one of prosperity in Manipur. The revenue continued to expand and was more than Rs. 50,000 in excess of the expenditure. The *Cherap* and *Panchayat* Courts were completed, the Raja's tank re-excavated, and the Imphal protective embankments strengthened. The reconstruction of the hospital at Imphal was nearly finished, and a new dispensary was opened at Mairang. The hill tribes received a good deal of attention, and a number of abuses, which had crept into the relations of State officials with them, were corrected. Steps were taken to license the guns held in these villages and to reduce their number. As the result of the Superintendent's visit to the Malun villages, and his meeting with officers of the Chin and the Lushai Hills, many cases of old standing were settled.

Frontier tribes: Mishmis.

6. In July 1905, three British subjects were murdered by some Bebejiya Mishmis near the Dikrang block-house. A heavy reward was offered for the apprehension of the murderers, and as they were not given up, a strict blockade was maintained against the tribe. Similar steps were taken against the Chulikata Mishmis who failed to intercept the Bebejiyas when passing through their country.

Naga Hills.

The Naga Hills district was further extended by the inclusion of the small village of Mangaki's. In February an expedition visited Yachumi to exact punishment for the murder of a Aichisagami trader and realized a heavy fine. The murderer could not be arrested, but the village of Kehomi, where he had taken refuge, was burnt.

Proposals for the inclusion of the entire Sema tribe of Nagas within the area of political control have recently been submitted to the Government of India.

Garo Hills.

In the Garo Hills the only event of importance was the continuance of Sonaram Sangma's agitation for the recovery of a tract of country which has for many years been included in the Bijni estate in the Goalpara district, but is claimed by the Garos as part of their hills.

Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

The attention of Government was drawn during the year to the illicit importation of firearms into the Khasi States, and the chiefs have been addressed on the subject. Special enquiries were made with a view to ascertain the number and situation of stills in these States and the best method of controlling the traffic in liquor.

Other tribes.

Nothing of importance occurred among the other tribes. They behaved well throughout the year.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Condition of the people.

7. The year was one of considerable hardship to the people in most parts of the province. The total rainfall, though above the normal, was badly distributed. As a consequence, the rice crops yielded a poor return everywhere except in the Rajshahi division, and the prices of food-grains ruled high. They reached famine rates towards the end of the year, and the distress which followed in a few districts had to be met by the issue of agricultural loans, the provision of labour for the sufferers, and the distribution of gratuitous relief. Wages fell in Noakhali and Bakarganj, but rose in Kamrup, Dacca, and Mymensingh, owing to the operation of special causes.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALIZATION OF THE REVENUE.

Remittances of land revenue by special money orders.

8. The system of remitting land revenue and cesses by special money orders continues to be popular, especially among the proprietors of petty estates. The payment of rent by money order, on the other hand, does not seem to have made any advance in the popular estimation. It is, as a rule, disliked and discouraged by the zamindars and their *amla*, and, when resorted to, is ordinarily a sign that the relations between landlords and tenants are strained.

9. The Sale Law was generally administered with due leniency and moderation. Out of 6,804 estates, shares, and interests, which became liable to sale for non-payment of land revenue, only 609 were actually sold. It is satisfactory to note that there was only one case in which it was found necessary to refer to Government for the annulment of sale on the ground of hardship. Operation of the Sale Laws.

10. There was an increase of over two thousand in the number of certificates filed, but the percentage of disposals was practically the same as that of the previous year. Taking into consideration the agricultural conditions of the year, the administration of the certificate department was in general satisfactory. Section 21 of the Public Demands Recovery Act, which permits a judgment-debtor to redeem his property after sale by payment of the amount of certificate with costs and a penalty, is reported to have worked well. Certificate cases.

11. Two important changes were made in the law (Regulation I of 1886) on the subject by Regulation II of 1905, *viz.*, (1) the issue of notices of demand under section 68 of the Regulation was made optional, and (2) provision was made for the ejectment of the defaulter on annulment of the settlement of an estate under section 90. The first procedure was introduced experimentally in certain selected portions of all the plains districts in Assam except Sylhet, and is reported to have resulted in the speedy recovery of arrears everywhere, except in Darrang. The ejectment procedure was tried in the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur only. Coercive measures under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation.

12. The collections of the miscellaneous land revenue were fair, 97·00 per cent. of the current demand, and 91·83 per cent. of the total demand being realized. The system of collecting the house-tax from the hill tribes in the South Sylhet subdivision through their headmen proved a success. Miscellaneous Land Revenue.

13. The percentage of successful applications for mutation to the actual number of interests in the registers of Eastern Bengal was only 3·36. Land Registration enquiries made through *panchayats* were found to be useful in Mymensingh, and the system has been extended to some other districts as an experimental measure. The amended Registration rules, framed under Regulation II of 1905, have been introduced in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, Kamrup, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur. The experiment has so far justified expectations. Land Registration.

14. The result of the year's work in both portions of the province was an increase in the number of pending cases. Rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual, under which the Land Records Sub-Deputy Collectors are empowered to give effect to undisputed orders of partitions under certain circumstances, has, in practice, led to the formation of estates with a revenue demand of less than Rs. 5 against the provisions of section 97 (I) (*a*) of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation. The matter is under consideration. Partitions.

15. The outstandings on account of loans, advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists' Loans Act, increased during the year by over three lakhs. This was due to the unusually large advances made to poor cultivators to assist them in tiding over the bad season. Loans.

16. There are now twenty-one Co-operative Credit Societies in the province, twenty of which are registered under the Act. They appear generally to have done useful work, but it is somewhat too early as yet to express any definite opinion on them. Co-operative Credit Societies.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

17. Exclusive of minor operations, the work of the Survey and Settlement Departments in Eastern Bengal was confined during the year to the districts of Bakarganj and Faridpur. The programme was completely carried out, the cadastral survey of the district of Bakarganj being completed, while the traverse survey of a large area in Faridpur was carried through. The object of securing efficient administration at a minimum of cost was kept prominently in view. The dual control of the Survey and Settlement Departments over cadastral survey and initial record-writing being no longer necessary, these items of work in Eastern Bengal were transferred to the Settlement Department, and the Settlement staffs concerned were put through a special course of training in cadastral survey under the Survey Department at the recess camps at Titagur and Ranchi. The proposal to depute a few munsifs annually to settlement duty, in order to enable them to acquire a practical knowledge of the settlement procedure and the validity which attaches to the record at its various stages, was approved by the High Court and sanctioned by the Supreme Government. Surveys and settlements.

LAND RECORDS.

18. The scheme for the maintenance of records in Chittagong is still under consideration. There was a noticeable improvement in the record of mutations of names Land Records.

in Government and Wards' estates. An increased and more intelligent use of the settlement records was made during the year by the Criminal and Revenue Courts.

SETTLEMENT FOR SPECIAL CULTIVATION (WASTE LANDS).

Settlement for special cultivation.

19. The area, settled for special cultivation, amounted to 27,78,110 bighas, and the revenue demand to Rs. 9,11,406. In Assam both the area and revenue showed an increase which was shared by Sylhet, Darrang, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur. The increase was due chiefly to new settlements and progressive enhancements.

GOVERNMENT, WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Government, Wards' and attached estates.

20. There were one thousand five hundred and thirty-eight estates under direct Government management during the year. The number of wards' and attached estates was forty-six. The revenue and cesses due to Government were generally paid punctually, but the outstandings due to superior landlords were much heavier in proportion. The total collections of rent and cesses due to the estates represented 98·9 per cent. of the current demand. Careful attention continued to be paid to the important subject of the education of wards whose estates are under Government management. The scarcity, which prevailed during the year over a considerable portion of the province, materially affected the condition of the tenantry.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

21. There was no serious disturbance in the relations between landlords and tenants during the year, although there are many estates in which there is constant friction between these classes, due in most cases to attempts made to enhance rents illegally or to levy cesses which are not authorised by the law. The Bengal Tenancy Act, which is in force in the regulation districts of Eastern Bengal and in part of the scheduled district of Jalpaiguri, continued to work smoothly, although instances occurred in which its provisions were evaded both by landlords and tenants when they conflicted with their interests. Amendments of the Act, such as those proposed in Bengal, are called for in this province also.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

22. The only Act passed by the Imperial Legislature affecting this province was the Bengal and Assam Laws Act, 1905, which provides for the adaptation and application of the laws hitherto in force in Assam and Eastern Bengal respectively. Act VI (B.C.) of 1865 (an Act for the prohibition of the practice of inoculation) was extended to the whole of the plains districts of Assam.

POLICE.

Civil Police.

23. The most important event in the Police Administration of the year was the reorganization of the Department. A separate cadre consisting of 2 Deputy Inspectors General, 23 Superintendents and 20 Assistant Superintendents was constituted; the Inspector General, who, before the constitution of this province, was also in charge of Jails, Excise, and Registration, was relieved of these duties; the Railway and River Police were placed in charge of an Assistant Inspector General, while a Criminal Investigation Department and Finger-print Bureau were organised under an officer of the rank of Superintendent. The Military Police and the hill districts were left under the immediate control of the Inspector General. Since the close of the year, proposals have been submitted to the Government of India for the revision of the superior cadre on the lines laid down by the Police Commission. In the meanwhile some improvement has been made in the pay and cadre of the inferior police force. Proposals were also formulated for strengthening the Military Police, but final sanction is still awaited. The discipline of the force was good, and the number of departmental punishments substantially less than in the previous year. Specially commendable was the tact and forbearance shown by the police in the trying conditions that prevailed in Eastern Bengal during the latter part of the year. A noticeable feature in the

chaukidari administration was the introduction of Mr. Savage's scheme for improving the status of the village panchayats and entrusting them with more powers in the Dacca and Tippera districts and the Nator subdivision of Rajshahi.

Military Police.

24. The record of the Military Police was most satisfactory. The discipline was, with slight exceptions, excellent, and two trans-frontier expeditions to Mozungjami and Yachumi were executed by a force of the Naga Hills Battalion in a very satisfactory manner. In Dacca and Barisal, the Military Police, deputed to keep the peace, behaved with great restraint, while the task of guarding the Jail camp at Sylhet was performed admirably.

Crime.

25. The total number of cognizable offences reported shows a considerable increase on that of the previous year. It is, however, satisfactory to note the diminution in the number of riots and of serious offences against the person. On the other hand, there was a serious increase in the number of dacoities, burglaries, and thefts. It is hoped that the effect of the vigorous measures taken to break up the principal gangs of professional criminals will be seen in the following year.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

26. No material change was made during the year in the criminal administration of the province except that, for the Hill Districts and the Frontier Tracts of Assam, the appellate and revisional powers, formerly exercised by the Chief Commissioner, were vested in the Lieutenant-Governor of the newly-created Province. The number of offences reported, 118,012, was almost the same as in the preceding year, but the number brought to trial was less. The number of cases, committed for trial to the Courts of Sessions, rose to 878, there being a marked increase in Sylhet, Bakarganj, and Faridpur, but the average duration of such trials fell from 51·2 to 41·6 days. The receipts and charges (excluding those for the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts) exceeded those of 1904 by over seven thousand and thirty thousand rupees respectively.

JAILS.

Jails.

27. The number of prisoners confined in the various jails was higher than in the preceding year, as was also the daily average population. This increase was due almost entirely to an increase in the number of under-trial admissions in the jails in Assam. The daily proportion of sick (43·09 per thousand) was higher than in the preceding year, but lower than in the years 1900 to 1902, while the death-rate, which was 31·09 per thousand, was higher than in any year since 1900. There was some overcrowding in the prisons of Assam, due largely to the serious outbreak of dysentery in the Gauhati jail, and of *beri-beri* in the Sylhet jail, which prevented the transfer of prisoners. A new jail is, however, being constructed at Jorhat, and an extension of the Nowgong jail has been sanctioned. At Sylhet, 186 cubicles were completed and occupied, while a scheme for the construction of 192 cubicles in the Rampur Boalia Central Jail was approved by the Government of Bengal, but has not yet been carried into effect.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Subordinate Civil Courts.

28. There was an increase of over two per cent. in the number of suits decided in the Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court, but the number of contested suits fell from 79,135 to 69,578.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

29. The Secretary of State sanctioned the formation for Bengal of a service of salaried Sub-Registrars consisting of four grades of Special Sub-Registrars drawing from Rs. 175 to Rs. 250 a month and of four grades of Rural Sub-Registrars on a scale of pay ranging from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150 a month. The system was introduced in the Eastern Bengal districts from the 1st of October, but Rural Sub-Registrars, who were over 45 years of age, were given the option of continuing to be paid by commission. The total number of registrations increased by ·78 per cent. and the total receipts of the Department by 1·6 per cent.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Municipalities.

30. The number of municipalities and municipal institutions remained the same as in the previous year, and their administration was, on the whole, marked by steady progress. Assessments were revised generally or partially in most of them and produced very good results. The total income of the municipalities increased by Rs. 96,752 and the expenditure by Rs. 1,03,654, which was distributed over all the main branches of municipal administration. A scheme for the supply of filtered water

to the town of Narayanganj was considered during the year, and considerable activity was displayed by some other municipalities in the same direction. Attention was paid to conservancy in all the divisions, and the necessity of improving the drainage of towns was generally recognised.

District and Local Boards.

31. The income and expenditure of the District and Local Boards of the province showed a considerable increase. Larger amounts were spent on education, and some progress was made in the extension of medical relief. The inauguration of a project to improve the sanitation of Manikganj on the lines of the Patna scheme, was an interesting feature of the year's work. A substantial expenditure was incurred on the construction of feeder roads, and considerable attention was paid to the provision of veterinary assistants. The heavy lapses on the Public Works allotments, the inadequate outlay on the improvement of the village water-supply, the failure to provide for technical and industrial education, and the indifference shown towards the development of local industries were, however, serious defects in the administration of the Boards during the year.

MARINE.

The Port of Chittagong.

32. The number of vessels that entered the Port of Chittagong was slightly smaller than that of the previous year, but the aggregate tonnage of the vessels was greater. With the exception of tea and jute, the other chief articles of trade, such as grain, salt, and mineral oil, showed a decrease. The receipts of the year, however, increased by over three thousand rupees. The improvement of the port by revetment work, erection of additional jetties and purchase of a dredger was in progress.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

General.

33. Steps were taken during the year for the organization and development of the Agricultural Department, and a separate Director of Agriculture will shortly be appointed for the proper supervision of the work carried on by this Department.

Work of the year.

34. The attempt to introduce Caravonica cotton in Assam was continued, and was attended with better results than in 1904-1905. It is likely to be successful as a field crop in that portion of the province. The results of the experiments with wheat in the Assam Valley gave encouraging results on the whole, but those with Muzaffarnagar wheat at Rajshahi and Dinajpur were not so successful. Experiments with an old patch of tea at Shillong proved that tea of excellent quality could be grown on the higher plateau of the Khasi Hills. Special measures were taken to demonstrate to the raiyats the profitable nature of the jute crop as well as the proper method of cultivating the plant and preparing the fibre, and met with a fair amount of success. Agricultural shows were held in six districts during the year. Attention was paid to agricultural education and two students were sent to the Pusa Agricultural College for training in general farming, while scholarships were given to six others who went to Chinsura to learn the use of the fly-shuttle loom.

Three experimental stations were maintained during the year, and two more were brought under the control of the Agricultural Department on the creation of the new province. Among the successful results obtained in these farms may be mentioned the cultivation of strawberries, figs and other fruits, and the rearing of European silkworms at Shillong. The cultivation of lemon-grass in Upper Shillong and that of tobacco at Rangpur were also attended with success.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and crops.

35. The rainfall throughout the province was almost everywhere considerably in excess of the normal. On the whole, the year cannot be regarded as favourable from an agricultural point of view. Floods and insects did considerable damage to the crops both in Eastern Bengal and Assam. Taking all crops together, the produce of the year is estimated to have been 22 per cent. below the normal.

FORESTS.

Forests.

36. The total area of reserved forests increased during the year by 26·88 square miles and now stands at 6,062·8 square miles, or 6·1 per cent. of the area of the whole province. The working plans for the Nambor reserved forests and for the reserved forests of the Jalpaiguri and Buxa divisions were completed and sanctioned, while another for an area of 3 square miles of *sál* forest in the Darrang division is under the consideration

of the Local Government. There was a diminution in the number of forest fires, and the percentage of area successfully protected was 99·7. The rubber plantation at Charduar having passed beyond the experimental stage, it is under consideration to dispose of it by sale or lease.

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FACTORIES.

Manufactures.

37. During the year the cultivated area under tea altered but slightly, 7,826 acres of old tea having been abandoned and 6,497 acres newly planted out. The total outturn for the province amounted to 193,556,047 lbs. Prices for Assam Valley teas increased by 3 pies for Calcutta, and by 1·82 of a penny for London sales; those for Surma Valley teas, however, fell by about a farthing per pound,—a result due to the heavy crop in Ceylon and a diminishing demand for lower-class teas. Results in Eastern Bengal were very similar to those in the Surma Valley. It is hoped that the demand for tea may be stimulated by the reduction of the home duty.

Mines.

38. The total output of coal from the different coal mines in the province was 277,027 tons, and the production of petroleum in Lakhimpur amounted to 2,733,110 gallons. In both cases an increase was shown.

Factories.

39. The total number of factories at the close of the year was 82, or 11 more than in the previous year. The average daily number of operatives was considerably in excess of the number employed in 1904. Their general health was, on the whole, good. There was one prosecution under section 15, Act XV of 1881.

TRADE.

Customs ports.

40. There were two Customs ports in the province during the year, *viz.*, Chittagong and Narayanganj, of which the latter was unimportant, and has, since the close of the year, been abolished.

The most interesting feature of the year was the further expansion of trade at Chittagong, which during the last five years has more than doubled. With the impetus it will receive under the new Government, the prospect of its further development in the near future seems hopeful.

Sea-borne trade.

41. The total value of the sea-borne trade of the province amounted to Rs. 414·37 lakhs, or 12 per cent. more than in the previous year.

Foreign trade.

42. Foreign imports, which since 1901-1902 have increased sevenfold, showed a decrease of over 16 per cent. during the year. This decrease was due to special causes, and occurred chiefly under the heads salt and tea chests. Eighty per cent. of the total imports come from the United Kingdom. Tea and jute are the most important articles of the export trade, representing 89 per cent. of the whole foreign trade and 97·6 per cent. of the foreign exports. In the last five years the figures show an increase of 50 per cent. in jute and 300 per cent. in tea,—a result which is entirely due to the facilities afforded by the Assam-Bengal Railway. With some more encouragement, the expansion of trade in these articles ought to be still more rapid. A good deal of jute, which could be exported direct from Chittagong, still goes to Calcutta for export. It is hoped that the sites, which are being made available for jute mills on the Karnaphuli river, will be taken up, and this portion of the export trade in jute diverted to Chittagong. About 75 per cent. of the export trade was with the United Kingdom.

Coasting trade.

43. Of the trade with other provinces and parts of India, that by sea was valued at Rs. 147·04 lakhs, showing an increase on the whole of Rs. 30·95 lakhs. The largest increase was nearly 60 per cent. in Indian exports to other parts of the country, almost the whole of which (27·5 out of 33·7 lakhs) was due to a larger export of jute. The imports and exports of foreign goods within the country fell off by 34 and 33 per cent. respectively, the decline being due partly to the Swadeshi agitation and partly to increased popularity of railway transit.

Frontier trade.

44. The frontier trade of the province by land with Bhutan, Towang, Aka and Dafla Hills, Abor, Mishmi and other hills, Manipur and Hill Tippera was valued at Rs. 19,88,135, about three-fourths of this amount representing trade with Hill Tippera and Manipur. It is worth noticing that the value of the imports from these countries into the province (Rs. 14,58,118) is considerably greater than that of the exports (Rs. 5,30,017) from the province to them.

Inter-provincial trade.

45. The inter-provincial trade of Assam showed a decrease of 11 per cent. in the value of imports, and an increase of 1½ per cent. in that of exports. The decrease in imports occurred chiefly under the heads cotton, piece-goods and twist and yarn, brass and copper, kerosine oil, salt, and unrefined sugar. The increase in exports was most noticeable under rice, jute, oranges, raw cotton, and hides of cattle.

No separate statistics are available for Eastern Bengal.

PUBLIC WORKS.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial works.

46. The combined post and telegraph office at Saidpur was completed, and two others, one at Jalpaiguri and another at Pabna, were enlarged. A combined office and residence for the Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs at Dibrugarh and combined post and telegraph offices at Saikwaghat and Dumduma were under construction.

Provincial works.

47. A temporary residence for the Lieutenant-Governor and a set of staff quarters, with all necessary out-offices, were constructed at Dacca on a site lent by Nawab Salimulla. Houses were built during the year for several Government officials, including the Munsifs. Temporary accommodation was provided for the offices of the Accountant General, the Inspectors General of Prisons and Registration, and the Sanitary Commissioner, while the Civil Secretariat at Shillong was extended. Several works were either carried out or were in progress in connection with the Civil and Criminal Courts in the province. A Training College in Dacca was completed, and the construction of the new College buildings in the same town was continued. Besides these, school-houses were erected in various places. Of the jail buildings, the most important were the addition of a European ward to the Chittagong jail and the construction of two double-storied hospitals, one for this jail and another for the Mymensingh jail. Barracks were constructed for the police, Civil and Military, in Dibrugarh and other places, while additions were made to the Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur and a civil hospital was constructed at Aijal.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications.

48. Under "Communications" the principal works were the metalling of the Dimapur-Manipur road, the improvement of the Gauhati-Shillong road and strengthening of the bridges on that road in order to adapt them for motor car traffic, and the construction of the Karong and Lhansiri bridges. Portions of the Shillong-Cherra cart road and of the Assam Trunk Road in the Upper Assam division were metalled, and the extension of the North Trunk Road in the Upper Assam division and the restoration of the Nowgong-Dhing road were in progress. The Raja Bhatkhowa-Jaigaon and Jainti-Rydak roads in the Eastern Duars, Jalpaiguri district, were completed. Several bridges on different roads were either in hand or were completed.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Miscellaneous public improvements.

49. The remodelling of the Gauhati water-works was in progress and the work of restoring certain old Assamese embankments in the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts was continued. An experimental artesian boring at Jorhat on a large scale was undertaken, and some expenditure was incurred in subsidising the Steamer Company's dredging operations on the shoal near the Dibrugarh steamer ghât.

RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

Railways and tramways.

50. The total mileage of railways in this province was 1,601·81 : 44·47 miles on metre-gauge were added during the year. There were 275 miles of metre-gauge railway under construction, and sanction was accorded to the construction of a line from Sylhet to Kulaura, a distance of 31 miles, as a branch extension of the Assam-Bengal Railway. The survey of 127 miles was in progress, while a survey of an extension of the Barsoe-Kissenganj branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway *viâ* Titalia to Jalpaiguri, 59 miles in length, was sanctioned. The Kaunia-Bonarpara extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway was opened for traffic on the 1st July 1905. The Noakhali (Bengal) Railway was purchased by the State and incorporated with the Assam-Bengal Railway.

The most important matters, on which the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam was consulted, were the establishment of a wagon ferry between Narayanganj and Chandpur, the proposed transfer of the Dacca-Mymensingh branch of the Eastern Bengal Railway to the Assam-Bengal Railway, and the construction of the bridge over the Ganges at Sara.

The Jorhat State Railway showed a net earning of Rs. 2,458, against a loss of Rs. 3,840 in the previous year; the Tezpur-Balipara and the Dibru-Sadiya Railways returned 6·58 and 4·94 per cent., respectively, on their capital outlay. The total outlay on the Dwara-Therria Railway remained unchanged. The work on this line has been suspended, but the Managing Director hopes to raise further funds shortly to complete it.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

FINANCE.

Statistics. 51. Excluding receipts on account of State Railways, the gross revenue of the province showed an increase of Rs. 22,34,171. The bulk of this increase occurred under Land Revenue, Stamps, Excise, Provincial Rates, Forests, Jails, Police, Miscellaneous, and Contributions from Provincial to Local; Salt and Customs revenues, on the other hand, showed a decrease.

Excluding all Railway expenditure and contributions between Provincial and Local, the total expenditure of the province amounted to Rs. 2,45,99,132, or Rs. 24,71,153 in excess of that of the previous year. Expenditure increased under Land Revenue, General Administration, Jails, Police, Education, and Other Public Works.

LAND REVENUE.

Land revenue. 52. The total current demand increased during the year from Rs. 1,83,28,453, to Rs. 1,84,50,918. The total collections, current and arrears, amounted to 94·86 per cent. of the total demand of Rs. 1,92,16,167, the percentage in the previous year having been 95·57.

CUSTOMS.

Customs. 53. The net customs duty for the year fell from Rs. 20,97,504 to Rs. 17,97,844 or by Rs. 2,99,660, due largely to a decrease in the duty on salt realized at Narayanganj. The net income of the Chittagong Port showed a decrease of over sixty-four thousand rupees for which smaller receipts in the export and import duties were responsible. There were no fines and confiscations owing to the infringement of Customs Act during the year, nor did any cases under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act (IV of 1889) occur.

SALT.

Salt. 54. The boycott, which prevailed in this province and in Bengal during the latter half of the year, had a slight effect on the importations of salt, which declined by nearly 5 per cent., but none on the sales of imported salt which increased by more than 7 per cent. Compared with the previous year, the fall in the average wholesale price was less than 8 annas, which represents the reduction in the salt duty, but this was probably due to the higher price of salt sold from the ship's side in Calcutta. There is every reason to believe that retail purchasers have benefited largely from this reduction. The net revenue fell by 17·65 per cent. In accordance with a scheme of the Salt Commissioner of Bengal, sanctioned by the Government of India in September 1905, preventive operations were begun in Noakhali in October.

EXCISE.

Excise. 55. The most important event of the year was the visit of the Excise Committee to this province. Sittings were held at Dacca, Gauhati, and Jorhat, and several important matters, connected with the Department, were considered. A distillery under the contract system was started from the 1st of October at Jorhat, with two depôts at Golaghat and Nazira. The revenue of the year, which amounted to 62 lakhs, showed an increase of 4 lakhs over that of the previous year. The largest increase occurred under *ganja*; opium came next and was followed by country spirits and imported liquor. The question of controlling the manufacture of country liquor in the Khasi Hills is under the consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor.

STAMPS.

Statistics. 56. Stamp revenue, which was realized during the year under the Indian Stamp Act and the Court-fees Act, as amended by subsequent enactments, rose from Rs. 82,92,289 to Rs. 87,26,532. The increase in receipts occurred under both heads. The total charges amounted to Rs. 2,21,463, against Rs. 2,13,248 in 1904-1905.

INCOME-TAX.

Income-tax.

57. The net revenue for the year increased by nearly thirty thousand rupees and the demand by a little more than twenty-five thousand rupees. The standard of collections was maintained.

FOREST REVENUE.

Forest revenue.

58. The receipts from forests for the year amounted to Rs. 12,54,787 and the expenditure to Rs. 6,75,863. The net income (Rs. 5,78,924) shows a satisfactory advance, and, with the exception of Goalpara, every division worked at a profit.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial revenue.

59. The provincial revenue account of the year opened with a balance of Rs. 24,79,974; receipts amounted to Rs. 2,35,54,944 and expenditure to Rs. 1,98,34,918, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 62,00,000. Two special assignments were made by the Imperial Government during the year,—one of Rs. 30,00,000 to augment the resources of the Provincial Government, and another of Rs. 1,53,000 to raise the Provincial balance to Rs. 62,00,000 in order to keep Rs. 50,00,000 at the credit of the Local Government at the commencement of the new Provincial Settlement, in addition to the minimum Provincial balance which is henceforward to be maintained at Rs. 12,00,000 instead of at Rs. 5,00,000 as it stood for Assam. Besides these two special assignments, Imperial contributions were made in aid of the Provincial revenues for police reorganization, for primary education, for grants to District Boards, for redistribution of charges under assignments and compensations, for collegiate education, and for agricultural and veterinary improvements.

LOCAL FINANCE.

Local Finance.

60. The total receipts of the Incorporated and the Excluded Local Funds amounted to Rs. 48,76,721 and Rs. 9,42,955 respectively, and the expenditure to Rs. 44,53,605 and Rs. 9,41,997.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSES.

Statistics.

61. Both the Road and Public Works cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna per rupee in all the districts of Eastern Bengal where Act IX (B. C.) of 1880 is in force. There was an increase of Rs. 41,404 in the current demand of these cesses, due to valuations and revaluations. The collections amounted to 89 per cent. of the total demand.

The total demand for local rates in Assam was Rs. 7,74,119, of which 93 per cent. was collected.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital statistics.

62. The recorded birth-rate during the year was normal, but the death-rate was considerably higher than the quinquennial average. A severe epidemic of cholera swept over the lower districts of Bengal, and up into the Brahmaputra Valley as far as Kamrup and the Mangaldai subdivision of the Tezpur district. The mortality from fever, diarrhœa and dysentery was slightly higher than the average of the past ten years, but deaths from small-pox and *kalá-ázár* showed a most satisfactory diminution. The prevalence of malaria being due largely to the existence of stagnant water in *bhils* and moribund rivers, Government has recently sanctioned a scheme for draining the Cheroil swamp in the Pabna district, while other similar schemes for the drainage of the Challan swamp and of large tracts lying round Rangpur and Gaibandha are under consideration.

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR INSPECTION.

Immigration.

63. There was a distinct improvement in immigration during the year and a most satisfactory feature was the steady increase in the number of unindentured labourers. The labour question, however, is still a difficult one, and in order to stimulate sardari recruitment revised rules were issued during the year by the Government of Madras, removing certain restrictions on sardari recruitment in the districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, and important concessions have, since the close of the year, been

made by the Assam-Bengal and the East Indian Railways. Mortality among immigrants during the journey to Assam showed an increase, but on gardens the rate was the same as in the previous year. Relations between the employers and the labourers were generally satisfactory. The most important question of the year affecting the tea industry was the appointment by the Government of India, in February 1906, of a representative committee to investigate the general working of Act VI of 1901, and to consider whether the withdrawal of that Act from the Surma Valley districts would prejudicially affect recruitment for the Upper Assam Valley districts.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable dispensaries.

64. Though the number of dispensaries in the province was only 12 in excess of that of the previous year, the total number of patients treated increased by nearly a lakh,—a fact which shows that these institutions are steadily becoming more and more popular. The attendance of women was, however, disappointing: while in the purely female dispensaries it showed a slight increase, it fell off considerably in the other dispensaries, notwithstanding the provision of separate waiting rooms with separate entrances for them.

Lunatic Asylums.

65. There was practically no increase in the number of inmates of the Lunatic Asylums in the province. The health of the patients at Tezpur showed a marked improvement, but that at Dacca was not so satisfactory, the mortality there per thousand having steadily risen from 55 in 1903 to 81 in 1905. The increase was due mostly to deaths from tubercle of the lungs, to which the insane are said to be specially liable.

SANITATION.

Sanitary improvements

66. Municipal expenditure on sanitary purposes was considerably less than in the preceding year, the decrease being noticeable under all the important heads except conservancy. The only sanitary works of importance, executed during the year, were the new water-works at Gauhati, and a scheme for roadside drainage at Dinajpur. A Sanitary Board was constituted in February, but no meetings were held.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination.

67. There was a considerable increase in the number of vaccinations during the year, but vaccination in compulsory areas was far from satisfactory. The special attention of Civil Surgeons has been drawn to the subject. The number of deaths from small-pox was the lowest on record since 1901-1902. The Vaccine Depôt at Shillong continued to show highly satisfactory results.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

General.

68. The year was devoted chiefly to organisation and to preparation for the introduction of the reforms recently initiated by the Government of India and the utilisation of the funds placed by that Government at the disposal of the provincial authorities. Considerable progress was made, moreover, in Assam on lines previously laid down.

In Eastern Bengal, the curricula sanctioned by the Government of Bengal in its Resolution No. 2, dated the 1st of January 1901, were adopted in almost all the schools; classes were opened in each of the three first-grade training schools for the purpose of the instruction of inspecting pandits and teachers of Middle schools for a period of three months; one more model Primary school was started in connection with the scheme of model Primary schools for girls; a certain proportion of Middle and Upper Primary scholarships was reserved for Muhammadan candidates in each district; in Muhammadan districts a portion of the district allotment was set apart for secularising *madrassas* and *muktabs*; some experimental schools were opened in the tea-gardens of the Duars for the education of coolie children; special grants were sanctioned by Government for the construction of Primary school houses; and, lastly, considerable progress was made towards the completion of the new buildings at Dacca in connection with the Dacca College and its attached hostels.

In Assam, the staff of inspecting officers was reorganised and increased; four nundred and ninety-one village Primary schools for boys and one model school for girls were opened with the help of the Imperial grant; the curricula and the text-books, prescribed for Lower Primary schools under the new Assam Manual, were completely introduced; the capitation allowance system was also introduced into all Lower Primary schools; subsidies to the Mission bodies in the Garo Hills were increased; and finally grants for building and furniture were made to impecunious schools.

Statistics. 69. During the year, there was an increase of 2·14 per cent. in the number of "Public Institutions" and 3·33 per cent. in the number of pupils attending them. Primary education showed an increase both in the number of schools and in attendance. There was a similar increase in the number of pupils in the secondary schools. The Arts colleges, however, showed a decline in the enrolment, this decline being spread over each stage of instruction. Muhammadans in this province have, in the past, been notoriously backward in the matter of education. This year, however, there was satisfactory increase in the number of Muhammadan pupils in every class of schools, and specially in the technical schools. It is a matter for congratulation that female education continues to advance, both the number of schools and attendance being higher than in the previous year.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the Press. 70. Forty-five books, twenty-three of which were in Assamese, were registered in Assam during the year. In Eastern Bengal 339 books were registered. Forty-five newspapers, of which eight were in English, were published in the province.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology. 71. The work of restoring and preserving the ruins at Gaur and Pandua in Malda was continued. Some progress was made in the restoration of the monolithic columns in the ruins at Dimapur and towards clearing these ruins of undergrowth.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VETERINARY.

Veterinary. 72. A complete scheme for the organization of a Veterinary Department for this province has been submitted to the Government of India, and all veterinary work of importance has necessarily been kept in abeyance until orders are received upon that scheme. The dispensaries established by the various local bodies, however, are doing useful work, and the veterinary assistants, employed as peripatetic officers in the moffusil, continue to treat outbreaks of contagious diseases in the villages and to inoculate cattle for rinderpest of which there were serious outbreaks in the Assam Valley and in the Surma Valley during the year.

PART II.

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ADMINISTRATION OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, 1905-1906.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

SECTION I.—Physical features of the country, Area, Climate, and Chief Staples.

Area and boundaries.

1. THE Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam consists of the territories formerly administered by the Chief Commissioner of Assam, to which have been added the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, together with the districts of Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, and Malda. It lies between 28° 17′ and 20° 45′ N. Lat. and 87° 48′ and 97° 15′ E. Long., and contains an area of 1,05,233 square miles, of which 7,370 square miles are included in the Native States of Manipur and Hill Tippera. It is bounded on the south by the Bay of Bengal; on the east by the territories under the administration of the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma and by hilly country inhabited by independent tribes; on the north by the Himalayas; and on the west by the Madhumati river up to the point where it breaks off from the Ganges, and thence by the Ganges up to Sahebganj. From that point the boundary runs along the western border of the Malda, Dinajpur, and Jalpaiguri districts to the foot of the Himalayas.

Physical features and soil.

2. The province includes the lower portions of the chief river systems of Northern and Eastern India, with a great variety of natural features in different tracts. That part of the area transferred from Bengal, which stretches from the foothills of the Himalayas to the Padma on the south, forms part of the great Gangetic plain, and is wholly alluvial, with the exception of a strip of submontane country in Jalpaiguri, and of an elevated tract of quasi-laterite soil, known as the Barind, included in the districts of Dinajpur, Malda, Rajshahi, and Bogra. The general level of the country is very low, especially in Rangpur and the central part of Rajshahi, where the rivers have silted up and there is a network of moribund streams and watercourses. In the extreme north, the Sinchula Hills in Jalpaiguri rise abruptly to a height of from 4,000 to 6,000 feet, but the tract lying south of this, within the angle formed by the converging channels of the Ganges and Brahmaputra is a rich alluvial country, which stretches eastward from the Ganges or the Padma, and southwards from the submontane forest belt, in an almost uninterrupted expanse of monotonous fertility.

3. From west to east at right angles to the upper portion of this tract, stretches the Brahmaputra valley, which forms an alluvial plain about 450 miles long with an average breadth of 50 miles. About the centre of the valley there is a tract of mountainous country known as the Mikir Hills, which covers an area of some 2,000 square miles, and contains peaks upwards of 4,000 feet in height. Low hills of gneissic rock are also found on both sides of the river in the neighbourhood of Gauhati and Goalpara, but elsewhere there is little to interrupt the even level of the plain. The country on either side of the Brahmaputra, as a rule, is low and is covered with high grass jungle. Further inland, the alluvium is more consolidated, with a preponderance of clay, and a belt of rice land, usually of considerable breadth, is found. In most parts of the valley, this belt supports a fairly dense population, but nearer the hills the cultivation again falls off, and grassy plains and forests stretch to their feet.

4. A mountain system, known as the Assam Range, separates this valley from that of the Surma. The Surma valley is a flat alluvial plain, about 125 miles long by 60 wide, shut in on three sides by ranges of hills. The western end of this valley lies very low. As in the rest of the delta, the banks of the rivers are almost the only high land in the country, and behind them lie great basins, or *haors*, which are covered with water during half the year. In the flood season the rivers drain into these *haors*, and there deposit their silt, a process which results in a very noticeable raising of the level of these basins. The Chatla *bil*, a great depression in South Cachar, which receives the floods of the Barak, is said to have risen nearly two and a half feet between 1872 and 1892; the extensive Hakaluki *haor* in South Sylhet, which receives the Langai, is likewise steadily diminishing in depth.

5. The south of the province includes the delta of the Ganges and Brahmaputra, and is also mainly alluvial, but on the confines of Dacca and Mymensingh, the Madhupur jungle, a tract, with a stiff clay soil resembling that of the Barind, rises above the alluvium, and in the south-east the hill range that divides Assam from Burma projects into it. It is a great deltaic tract, enriched by annual deposits of fertilizing silt from a hundred interlacing rivers, and possessed of an abundant water-supply. Owing to the annual overflow of the great rivers that traverse it, this tract remains practically under water for six months of the year, and at this season boats are the only means of communication. The alluvial rice-fields cease as the rivers draw near the sea, and this portion of the delta is an intricate system of sea-creeks and half-formed islands, densely clothed in many places with forest and sparsely inhabited.

The Hill tracts.

6. The hill tracts, included in the province, consist of the Assam Range, which is interposed between the Brahmaputra and the Surma Valleys, with its offshoot the Mikir Hills, and of the Lushai Hills, and the Chittagong Hills. The Assam Range projects at right angles from the Burmese system and is joined at its eastern extremity by the Patkoi to the Himalayas and by the mountains of Manipur to the Arrakan Yoma. At its western end the hills inhabited by the Garos are a succession of low forest-clad ranges intersected by river valleys, whose highest point is the peak of Nokrek (4,600 feet) which overhangs the station of Tura. The highest points of the Khasi-Jaintia tableland are the Shillong Peak, 6,450 feet, the Dingyei, 6,077, Rablong, 6,283, and Suer, 6,390; but these are only the most elevated portions of a plateau, hardly any portion of which falls much below 6,000 feet, and which is all inhabited and cultivated. To the east the level again falls, the highest summits not much exceeding 5,000 feet in the Jaintia Hills, and considerably less in the Cachar Hills north of the Barail. The latter range, commencing on the south-east margin of the Khasi-Jaintia plateau, rises by sudden leaps to a considerable height, and among the hills bordering the Jatinga Valley summits of from 5,000 to 6,000 feet are found. The range then curves north-eastwards, and attains a still greater height where it forms the boundary between the Naga Hills district and the State of Manipur. There the greatest elevation (in British territory) is reached by the peak of Japvo, which is little less than 10,000 feet above the sea. To the north-east of this point the mountain system of the Barail is broken up into a mass of ranges having a general north-east and south-west direction until the Patkoi is reached. The highest points in this portion are from 8,000 to 9,000 feet. Snow is frequent on Japvo and in its neighbourhood, but seldom falls further west.

7. Between the main axis of the Assam Range and the valley of the Brahmaputra, the average height of the hills varies considerably. The isolated block of hills, lying to the east of Nowgong, called the Mikir Rengma Hills, is cut off from the main range by low-lying valleys, and has within it summits attaining a height of 4,000 feet.

8. On the southern face the Garo and the Khasi Hills rise very abruptly from the plains, and present a succession of precipitous faces, into which the rivers, fed by the enormous rainfall of this region, have cut deep gorges as they issue upon the swamps of North Sylhet. In the upper and central plateau of the Khasi Hills, the landscape is one of undulating grassy hills, with occasional groves of pine and oak. The rest of the Assam Range consists of a succession of sharply serrated ridges, whose sides are still to a great extent covered with primeval forest.

Rivers.

9. The San-po, which is probably identical with the Brahmaputra, is believed to enter the Assam Valley from the Tibetan tableland by the channel known as the Dihang river. It then flows for a distance of 450 miles towards the south-west, and on reaching the western extremity of the Assam Range, turns south and finally unites with the main stream of the Ganges at Goalundo. The Ganges enters the province near Sahebganj, and proceeds in a south-westerly direction until it reaches the sea. In its course through the plains of Bengal the Brahmaputra is known as the Jamuna, and the Ganges as the Padma, while the Meghna is the name assigned to the gigantic river formed by the confluence of their waters. The Brahmaputra receives the drainage of the Himalayas and the Assam Range, its principal affluents being the Subansiri, the Manas, the Sankosh, the Tista, the Dehing, and the Dhansiri. Sylhet and Cachar are drained by the river Surma which rises in the mountain ranges on the northern boundary of Manipur, and, after a tortuous course of nearly 560 miles, falls into the old bed of the Brahmaputra near Bhairab Bazar. The Chittagong rivers form a completely separate system. The largest of them is the Karnaphuli, on which Chittagong is situated. It rises in the high lands to the north of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and, after a south-westerly course, falls into the Bay of Bengal.

The Lushai Hills divide Assam from Burma, and are for the most part covered with dense bamboo jungle and rank undergrowth, but in the eastern portion, owing probably to a smaller rainfall, open grass-covered slopes are found, with groves of oak and pine interspersed with rhododendrons. These hills are inhabited by the Lushais and cognate tribes, but the population is extremely scanty.

On the south-eastern frontier a succession of ranges covers the east of the Chittagong Division and Hill Tippera. None of them is of any great height, but the Sitakund Hill rises to 1,155 feet, and in the Chittagong Hills Tracts they attain greater altitude, the highest points being Keokradang (4,034 feet) and Pyramid Hill (3,016 feet). These hills are covered with thick bamboo jungle and brushwood and are separated from each other by cultivated river valleys. In the north of the Jalpaiguri district the Sinchula Hills rise to a height of from 4,000 to 6,000 feet and form the boundary between British territory and Bhutan.

Lakes and islands.

10. In the extreme south of the province, an interlacing net-work of estuaries, rivers, and watercourses encloses a vast number of islands of various shapes and sizes, which are themselves often half swamps. The largest of these are Dakhin Shabhazpur, Sandwip, and Hatia, at the mouth of the Meghna, and Kutubdia off the Chittagong coast. At the eastern end of the Assam Valley a large island, known as the Majuli, has been formed by a change in the main channel of the Brahmaputra. The only important lake in the Province is the Loktak in the Manipur Valley, but there are numerous *jheels*, or shallow sheets of water, which expand or diminish according to the season. The most remarkable of these are the Chalan *bil* in Rajshahi, and the great *jheels* in Bakarganj.

CLIMATE OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM.

Temperature.

11. The mean annual temperature of Eastern Bengal and Assam is appreciably lower than that of other parts of India in the same subtropical latitude. This is mainly due to the cooling influence of the exceptionally heavy rainfall of the province in April, May, and the first half of June, during which period the weather over the larger part of the rest of Northern India is dry and warmer than at any other time of year. The strong contrast of temperature between the east and the west of Northern India usually lasts until August, by which time monsoon rainfall should have fallen freely in the north-west, and its moderating effect on temperature is no longer confined to North-East India.

Monsoon rainfall ceases in Eastern Bengal and Assam at about the end of September, and from November until February there ensues a general similarity between the temperature of the province and that of the belt of country lying to the west of it in the same latitude.

Over the greater part of India the upper and lower limits of temperature occur in May and January, respectively, and it is in May that the strong cooling influence of spring rainfall is most apparent in this province. Not only then does the rainfall of those months reduce the mean annual temperature, but it does so most conspicuously at the time when the warmest weather of the year would otherwise occur, and it thus very greatly diminishes the annual range of temperature, while deferring the actual maximum until July everywhere except in the coast districts.

The yearly range varies from 17° or 18° in the districts below the northern tropic to 23° in the extreme north-east corner of Assam, and when this is compared with the range of 30° which occurs in the east of the United Provinces and Rajputana, it will be seen that the climate is unusually equable in this respect.

In the coolest month of the year, January, weather is warmer on the coast than in the interior, temperature varying from 60° at Dibrugarh in Assam to 67° at Chittagong; in July a nearly uniform temperature differing little from 83° is recorded over the whole province.

The diurnal range of temperature over large areas in Northern India is greatest in March and April, and here again the influence of rainfall and cloudy weather in these months is felt in Assam. Temperature at midday is moderated and at night is kept high, and in consequence there are found the comparatively small ranges of 18·2° at Tezpur, 17·6° at Sibsagar, and 15·8° at Dibrugarh.

From June onwards until September the diurnal range of temperature varies at different stations between 8° and 14°, but thereafter rises until in February it is as much as 23° over a large part of the area.

The magnitude of both diurnal and seasonal variations of temperature at any station is largely dependent upon its position with regard to the sea border, and becomes smaller with closer approach to the coast. Accordingly, while at Chittagong the limits

between which temperature varies are 66·8° in January and 82·0° in May and the range of variation is 15°·2, there is at Bogra, well inland in the delta of Bengal, a range of 20°·1 and the limits are 64° and 84°·1 in January and April, respectively; at Sibsagar, higher up in the Brahmaputra Valley, this feature is still more pronounced, and the mean monthly temperature, varying from 59°·8 in January to 84°·0 in July, has a total range of 24°·2.

Similarly, the mean diurnal range averaged over the year is 15°·9 at Sibsagar and 16°·2 at Dibrugarh, while it is only 15°·3 at Chittagong.

Station.	Monthly average of mean daily temperature.												
	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Chittagong	66·8	70·7	77·2	81·3	82·0	81·6	81·2	80·8	81·6	80·0	74·4	68·1	77·2
Silchar	65·1	68·2	74·6	78·9	80·6	82·8	83·7	83·2	83·1	80·5	74·2	67·4	76·9
Barisal	66·0	70·7	79·3	83·8	84·7	83·5	83·0	82·5	83·4	81·1	73·9	66·9	78·2
Narainganj	66·6	70·4	79·1	83·8	83·6	83·7	83·8	83·3	83·7	81·6	74·8	67·7	78·5
Mymensingh	63·8	67·0	75·7	81·5	81·2	82·1	82·7	82·5	82·3	79·7	72·6	65·4	76·4
Bogra	64·0	67·4	77·1	84·1	83·5	83·5	83·8	83·4	83·0	80·0	72·2	65·5	77·3
Sibsagar	59·8	63·2	69·6	74·5	78·8	82·9	84·0	83·5	82·2	77·8	69·0	61·1	73·9
Dhubri	63·6	67·0	75·0	79·7	79·6	81·1	82·1	82·2	81·1	78·7	71·7	64·7	75·6
Jalpaiguri	61·4	64·7	72·3	78·9	80·3	81·6	82·5	82·4	81·3	77·8	71·0	64·1	74·9
Dinajpur	62·6	66·3	75·2	82·7	83·0	83·5	84·0	83·7	82·8	79·7	71·7	64·2	76·6
Tezpur	61·5	64·4	71·5	74·6	79·2	82·5	83·6	82·7	82·2	78·1	70·3	62·9	74·5
Dibrugarh	59·7	62·3	68·4	71·5	77·5	80·7	81·8	81·2	81·0	77·0	69·0	61·4	72·6

Humidity.

12. The high humidity of the whole province has become proverbial, and the results of observations bear out this popular belief showing that, despite the great seasonal changes which occur elsewhere in this latitude as in other parts of India, the weather in the valley of Assam and delta of Bengal preserves its humid character with but small variation throughout the year. There are, indeed, few parts of the Indian area in which the air is so persistently damp as in Assam and the swampy regions of the Sunderbans at the mouth of the Ganges. Without intermission from January to December the upper half of the Brahmaputra Valley has a mean daily humidity exceeding 80 per cent.; and over the remainder of the province humidity closely approaches that figure during the greater part of the year, while only in February, March, April, and November does it fall in mean value below 70 per cent.

The following table of mean relative humidity at 8 A.M. at twelve stations in the province for each month shows how exceedingly damp the air is at all times of the year, and how near is the approach to saturation over the whole of the province:—

Station.	Average relative humidity at 8 A.M.												
	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Chittagong	87·8	84·3	82·7	80·2	82·4	86·2	89·0	88·7	88·4	89·6	88·9	89·5	86·5
Silchar	91·0	87·0	82·1	82·7	85·5	89·3	90·2	90·9	90·7	89·3	87·0	89·9	88·0
Barisal	86·5	84·3	84·8	82·2	82·4	87·3	88·0	89·1	87·7	83·5	83·3	86·5	85·5
Narainganj	87·2	83·6	82·7	82·1	84·8	89·4	90·1	90·3	88·2	84·0	84·9	86·8	85·7
Mymensingh	91·4	84·9	81·1	82·0	85·2	89·6	90·5	90·8	91·3	88·3	88·7	91·2	87·9
Bogra	85·2	79·4	73·9	76·5	82·1	87·5	88·8	88·8	88·8	85·5	85·3	85·3	83·9
Sibsagar	99·0	97·5	93·3	90·1	91·5	91·7	92·8	94·4	94·3	96·4	98·3	99·3	94·9
Dhubri	91·1	83·7	74·5	78·8	86·9	90·5	90·9	90·6	91·6	88·5	87·6	90·8	87·1
Jalpaiguri	90·9	85·5	75·0	75·8	83·5	89·3	91·8	91·7	90·7	88·1	84·2	88·5	86·3
Dinajpur	86·9	79·8	66·3	71·7	80·1	88·8	90·0	90·1	89·7	84·7	83·5	85·8	83·1
Tezpur	93·0	88·0	82·0	83·0	87·0	90·0	91·0	93·0	91·0	89·0	90·0	94·0	89·0
Dibrugarh	94·0	91·0	86·0	87·0	87·0	90·0	93·0	94·0	91·0	89·0	89·0	93·0	90·0

It cannot be said, however, that the absolute amount of water vapour present in the air is so marked a feature as is the humidity measured on the relative scale, *i.e.*, as a percentage of the possible or saturation amount. The quantity of vapour which the atmosphere is capable of containing depends solely on its temperature and increases rapidly with a rising thermometer; there are accordingly many parts of India and Burma where, in consequence of prevalent high temperature, absolute humidity is considerably above that of Assam, although the approach to saturation is not nearly so close. Such are the districts of Lower Burma, and those lying along the Madras and Konkan coasts where, from November to April, high temperatures and proximity to the sea give an absolute humidity greater even than that in the valley of the Brahmaputra.

Absolute humidity is near its minimum in the early days of the year and is subject to but slow increase during February; for the next four months, however, it rises rapidly, more especially in the interior districts of Eastern Bengal and up to the extreme north-east corner of Assam. From May to September humidity remains steady, and thereafter very rapidly declines to a minimum near the end of December.

Clouds.

13. Skies are seldom entirely clear over the province at any time of the year, and although during the cold-weather months, when clear weather prevails over nearly the whole of Northern India, the proportion of cloud-covered sky is at a minimum, it is still in excess of 10 per cent. on the coast and of 50 per cent. at Sibsagar.

The cloudiest months are July and August, when the proportion, which is fairly uniform over the whole province, lies between 72 per cent. and 93 per cent. The clearest months are November, December, and January, but even then during the mornings thick fogs commonly cover the low grounds of Assam and the neighbouring tracts of Eastern Bengal, and remain undissipated till late in the day: these give place in the early spring, as the weather becomes warmer, to thick low lying clouds which gather daily over the valleys and afford the heavy rain which is a marked feature of the province at this time of the year.

The following table exhibits the monthly averages of cloud amounts at representative stations throughout the year; the figures give the proportion of sky which is covered with cloud, a completely overcast sky being represented by 10 :—

Station.	Average cloud amount at 8 A.M.												
	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Chittagong	1·1	2·3	3·2	4·4	6·1	7·8	8·3	8·2	7·3	5·0	3·5	2·5	5·0
Silchar	3·5	3·7	4·9	6·1	7·3	9·0	9·2	9·3	8·7	6·1	4·7	4·0	6·4
Barisal	0·8	2·4	3·9	4·9	6·3	8·1	8·9	8·6	7·2	3·7	1·9	1·2	4·8
Narainganj	1·3	3·0	4·2	5·9	6·3	8·5	8·7	8·7	7·8	4·3	2·4	2·3	5·3
Mymensingh	1·5	2·1	3·6	5·3	6·2	7·6	7·9	8·0	7·1	4·3	2·6	1·5	4·8
Bogra	1·2	1·8	2·4	3·8	4·7	6·7	8·2	7·2	7·0	3·5	1·1	0·2	4·0
Sibsagar	5·4	5·9	6·2	6·9	8·1	8·8	8·9	9·1	8·7	7·2	5·2	5·3	7·1
Dhubri	1·9	2·2	2·6	5·0	7·0	8·1	8·4	8·5	7·5	3·8	1·9	1·6	4·9
Jalpaiguri	1·1	1·5	1·9	2·8	4·3	5·2	8·5	8·3	7·0	3·3	1·2	1·0	3·8
Dinajpur	1·1	1·5	1·9	4·1	5·9	8·0	8·4	8·0	6·8	3·1	1·2	0·7	4·2
Tezpur	2·8	3·8	3·8	5·6	6·7	7·7	8·6	8·6	6·9	4·8	3·5	2·4	5·4
Dibrugarh	3·7	4·6	5·2	6·0	5·9	6·9	7·5	8·3	6·7	4·7	3·6	2·4	5·5

The average cloud amount is greatest in an area extending from Upper Assam, represented by Dibrugarh and Sibsagar, to Silchar; thence it decreases westwards to Tezpur and Mymensingh and south-westwards towards the sea coast at Barisal, where skies are comparatively clear in the early and late months of the year. In July and August, however, when the whole area is uniformly affected by monsoon winds, there is little to choose between the conditions of different parts of the province.

Rainfall.

14. The rainfall of the province occurs in two periods of the year, the first extending from March to May and second throughout the summer monsoon season.

The conditions which determine the earlier rainfall are largely those of geographical position and of the land surface, at any rate so far as concerns the two valleys of Assam, lying to the north and south of the uplands of the Garo and Khasi Hills. In the spring months there is no such continuity of steady rainfall as occurs during the monsoon, but the weather is characterised by storms which burst after the heat of the day, and generally come from a westerly or north-westerly direction.

The valley of the Brahmaputra is covered by swamp and forest land and largely protected by hills from the approach of drying winds; there is accordingly ample cause for its heavy spring rainfall in the excessive local evaporation; in the more open valley of the Surma and Barak similar conditions also hold, with the added feature that the damp southerly winds from the head of the Bay of Bengal can pass freely over its low-lying stretches and penetrate to the hills which form its northern boundary.

In Eastern Bengal the air during these months is on the whole less nearly saturated than in Assam, and rainfall, although it occurs there also, is less frequent and lighter than in the more easterly districts of the province.

Between these spring rain-storms and the succeeding rains of the monsoon seasons a break of dry weather and westerly winds frequently intervenes.

During the months of the monsoon, rainfall is due, as in other parts of North-East India, to the influx of southerly sea winds from the head of the Bay, and its distribution is necessarily much influenced by the contour of the country. The monsoon winds flow across the delta of Bengal in a direction nearly at right angles to the coast line where, their even flow being checked by the surface of the land, eddies and commotions result which induce heavy rainfall in the more immediate neighbourhood of the coast. These winds are hemmed in on the east by the Tippera Hills and opposed on the north by the Garo-Khasi Range and the Himalayas. As a consequence, they are deflected to the west and north-west, and while rising over the lower slopes of the hills undergo dynamic cooling which causes condensation of their water vapour and heavy rainfall.

For these two reasons the rainfall of the delta of Bengal decreases from the coast line on the south for some distance into the interior, and from the valley of the Surma on the east to the broad plains of Bengal on the west. Thus the monsoon rainfall is found to decrease from 111″·4 at Sylhet to 62″·3 at Barisal, and to 50″·3 at Calcutta, while from Barisal to Dacca the gradation is from 62″·3 to 52″·3. Still further to the north the influence of the hills begins to display itself in producing a rapid increase of precipitation, so that the decreasing rainfall from Barisal to Dacca is succeeded from Dacca to Mymensingh, 70 miles nearer to the Garo Hills, by an increase of 18″. Rampore Boalia, which is at about the same distance as Dacca, but to the south-west of the Garo Hills, has a fall of 47″·9 in the five months from June to October; while Bogra, 60 miles nearer, has a fall of 57″·9, and Rangpore, which is about the same distance as Bogra from the Garo Hills but 70 miles nearer to the Himalayas, has as much as 68″·0 in the same period. In all these cases the greatest differences are shown in the earlier months of the monsoon, and the effect disappears in October when proximity to the coast becomes the most influential factor in determining the distribution of rainfall. The same characters are shown also in the case of the more eastern stations of Noakhali, Comilla, Sylhet and Cherrapunji, where rainfall decreases from 92″·9 at the first station to 67″·3 at the second, and thereafter increasing, on the further approach towards the hills, 111″·4 at Sylhet, culminates at Cherrapunji on the summit of the southern scarp of the Garo Range in the enormous fall of nearly 360″.

The variation from east to west is more pronounced in the inland and submontane districts than near the coast, as may be seen by comparing the figures of rainfall for Barisal and Calcutta, already given, with those for Mymensingh and Bogra, or for any other pair of rainfall stations similarly related.

15. The following table gives the rainfall data for representative stations throughout the year, with totals for the spring months, March, April, and May, for the months of the monsoon from June to October, and for the whole year:—

Normal District Rainfall.

Division.	District.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total March to May.	Total June to October.	Total of year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.
Rajshahi.	Jalpaiguri ...	0·63	0·63	1·69	5·81	14·31	26·77	33·16	26·60	22·90	5·85	0·35	0·21	21·81	115·28	138·91
	Cooch Behar ...	0·41	0·45	1·67	5·21	14·75	27·44	23·83	19·28	21·60	4·81	0·12	0·12	21·63	96·96	119·69
	Rangpur ...	0·41	0·51	1·03	3·19	10·22	17·05	14·80	12·58	14·10	4·67	0·15	0·09	14·44	63·20	78·80
	Dinajpur ...	0·41	0·57	0·82	1·74	6·41	14·26	15·85	12·61	13·74	3·40	0·09	0·06	8·97	59·86	69·96
	Malda	0·64	0·68	0·58	1·11	4·54	10·11	12·91	11·07	11·54	3·39	0·22	0·09	6·23	49·02	56·88
	Rajshahi	0·49	0·70	0·95	1·67	6·04	10·53	11·81	10·39	10·50	3·65	0·38	0·06	8·66	46·88	57·17
	Pabna	0·43	0·99	1·38	3·13	7·61	11·49	11·06	11·04	9·49	4·18	0·57	0·09	12·12	47·26	61·46
	Bogra	0·49	0·85	1·02	2·40	7·91	12·83	13·26	11·48	10·95	4·46	0·55	0·11	11·33	52·98	66·31
Dacca.	Mymensingh ...	0·47	0·87	1·87	4·31	11·30	17·90	16·48	14·96	12·73	5·06	0·60	0·08	17·48	67·13	86·33
	Dacca	0·49	1·17	2·43	4·72	9·61	12·64	12·95	12·59	9·05	4·26	1·03	0·14	16·81	51·49	71·13
	Faridpur ...	0·51	1·18	2·26	3·89	8·37	12·45	11·71	11·49	8·27	4·39	0·95	0·11	14·52	48·31	65·58
	Bakarganj ...	0·42	1·09	1·64	3·27	8·58	17·37	17·45	16·20	11·35	6·38	1·05	0·32	13·49	68·75	85·12
Chittagong.	Tippera	0·47	0·97	2·81	5·22	10·06	14·56	13·57	12·96	9·45	4·46	0·92	0·14	18·09	55·00	75·59
	Noakhali	0·43	1·14	2·90	4·33	10·55	22·21	24·02	23·92	14·15	7·52	1·44	0·38	17·78	91·82	112·99
	Chittagong ...	0·33	0·82	2·28	3·98	11·17	23·56	26·16	21·89	12·24	7·62	1·29	0·47	17·43	91·47	111·81
	Chittagong Hill Tracts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Hill Tippera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Surma Valley and Hill districts.	Sylhet	0·41	1·68	7·12	13·09	19·76	27·07	21·88	22·15	16·71	6·64	1·05	0·32	39·97	94·45	137·88
	Cachar	0·52	2·02	8·39	13·77	16·26	22·51	21·20	20·86	15·34	6·73	1·56	0·44	38·42	86·64	129·60
	Lushai Hills ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Naga Hills ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Garo Hills ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Assam Valley.	Goalpara ...	0·69	0·59	2·06	7·77	17·23	24·80	24·37	16·30	16·63	4·83	0·19	0·15	27·06	86·93	115·61
	Kamrup	0·48	0·81	2·51	7·79	11·38	13·61	15·23	12·33	8·63	3·59	0·29	0·28	21·68	53·39	76·93
	Darrang	0·76	0·93	2·94	6·95	11·97	14·31	15·74	13·33	10·62	4·87	0·46	0·56	21·86	58·87	83·44
Surma Valley.	Nowgong ...	0·53	0·84	2·64	5·53	8·15	10·39	14·34	13·40	10·19	4·01	0·39	0·37	16·32	52·33	70·78
	Sibsagar	0·95	1·79	4·71	8·84	9·91	12·04	15·03	14·43	10·42	4·62	0·65	0·60	23·46	56·54	83·99
	Lakhimpur ...	1·59	2·62	5·63	10·40	14·35	18·38	21·30	18·75	13·81	5·47	0·68	0·64	30·38	77·71	113·62
	Manipur * ...	0·70	2·18	4·90	5·38	6·94	11·53	12·75	11·32	6·23	5·25	1·62	0·71	17·22	47·08	69·51

* Rainfall for one station only.

It will be seen that in the Assam Valley the rainfall is greatest at the two extremities, and smallest in the middle region represented by Tezpur, Gauhati, and Nowgong: this peculiarity is possibly due to the fact that to the south of this region lies the most lofty part of the Shillong plateau, on the southern face of which the monsoon currents are largely drained of their abundant water vapour before passing on their course over the central tableland to the valley beyond. To the west of the central plateau the valley is open to the winds of the Bengal delta, while to the east the average height of the hill range falls greatly, admitting the south-west monsoon by the gorge of the Jatinga Valley, over the low uplands of North Cachar and down the long valley of the Dhansiri, into the great plain of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur.

No figures for the hill districts have been included in the table, because the amount of the rainfall recorded is so largely dependent upon the situation of the observing station that no estimate of the average rainfall in the hills can be formed from the records that are available. At Cherrapunji, for instance, which is a plateau about two square miles in area, the average annual rainfall varies by large amounts at different points of the station. The variations from year to year at Cherrapunji are also very marked; thus in 1861 the total rainfall was 915″, while in 1873 the amount recorded was only 283 inches.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Nowithstanding the unusually heavy spring rainfall of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, by far the greater part of the annual amount occurs between June and September, and has its maximum in June or July. Taking the period of the six months' heaviest rainfall, May to October, the rainfall of May at stations in Assam and the more north-eastern parts of Eastern Bengal varies from 1-5 to 1-10 of the total for the whole six months, and averages for all stations about 1-7; whereas in the Gangetic delta it averages 1-11, and decreases westwards until at some of the more westerly stations of the delta the proportion is only about 1-15.

Storms.

16. The storms of Eastern Bengal and Assam are of three types differing in both character and place of origin:—

(*a*) the cold-weather storms which occur during the months of December, January, February and occasionally in March;

(*b*) the cyclonic storms which pass from the Bay of Bengal during the south-west monsoon period, and

(*c*) the nor'westers and tornadoes, which are confined to the hot weather months.

The storms of the cold weather are similar in most respects to the depressions of Western Europe. They are caused by areas of low pressure moving from west to east, exhibit a slight circulation of wind, and give rise to unsettled weather, with more or less precipitation. Many of these storms can be traced from an origin as far west as Persia, across the Punjab and the United Provinces to their final stages in Assam, where their presence is indicated by only a slight lowering of the barometer, cloudy weather and some rain.

The cyclonic storms which form in the Bay of Bengal move along paths which vary in direction from month to month and cross the coast of India at different points. As a rule, these storms pass from the sea to the land to the west of the mouth of the Ganges, but from September to the end of December an occasional storm may move into the south of Eastern Bengal: none, however, has been known to penetrate up the Assam Valley beyond the Garo Hills. The most severe storms of this type occur in October and November, and it is in the former of these months that the province is most frequently affected by them.

Such storms are often exceedingly destructive, more especially along the sea coast. Owing to the great barometric depression in the centre of a cyclone and the retardation of the flow of river or tide by the violent winds in its neighbourhood, a high wave is sometimes formed and travels with the storm, giving rise to a destructive storm-wave when the centre reaches a gradually shelving coast. An instance is afforded by the Bakarganj cyclone of November 1st, 1876; in this case, on its approach to the mouth of the Megna, the pressure of the advancing storm-wave prevented the tidal and river water from flowing off. The wave was hence retarded over the shallow water near the entrance to the Megna and accumulating there finally overpowered the down-flowing waters: it then rushed with irresistible force over the islands, and low-lying coast districts, covering them to the depth of from 10 to 40 feet in the course of a very short space of time, probably less than half an hour. The waters receded very quickly as the storm passed inland and began to break up, after the wave had destroyed all the crops and drowned a very large proportion of the population. The most trustworthy account of the disaster put the loss of life by drowning at 100,000 and the subsequent loss by disease, chiefly cholera, directly due to the inundation, as 100,000.

A very similar disaster occurred on October 24th, 1897, when the coast around Chittagong was swept by a storm-wave which destroyed between 10,000 and 12,000 people.

The hot-weather storms are perhaps of the greatest interest, for, while they are of smaller extent, they occur frequently, attain great intensity and are often very destructive. They appear to owe their origin to the inter-action between the damp sea winds and the dry winds from the interior supplemented by the action of the hills in giving rise to vigorous forced ascents of air. Their usual form is that of severe thunder storms accompanied by hail; but sometimes they develope into tornadoes, the most intense form of small revolving whirls. These are rarely more than a few hundred yards in diameter and their paths of destructive violence are seldom longer than 10 miles; but along these paths they advance rapidly and with little warning, overturn and destroy houses and trees, and cause general destruction of life and property.

The rainfall associated with hot-weather storms is of importance in North-East India and more especially in Assam, where it is a valuable factor in the growth of tea,

CHIEF STAPLES.

17. The principal food-grain throughout the province, the hill districts excepted, is rice, which, in 1905-1906, covered 80 per cent. of the total cropped area. Rice is divided into two main crops, early and late, locally known in Eastern Bengal, as *aus* and *aman*, and in Assam, as *ahu* and *sali* or *bao*, according as the crop is transplanted or sown broadcast. Late, or *aman*, rice is the more valuable of the two. Rice.

Aman rice is of two principal varieties,—one sown broadcast and the other transplanted. Of these, transplanted *aman*, or *sali*, is most cultivated, and forms the great harvest of the year. The seed is generally first thickly scattered on high land in May or June. While the plants are growing the fields destined for their reception are ploughed up into a rich puddle of mud, and the small embankments intended to retain the water are repaired. When the young plants are seven or eight weeks old they are taken from the nursery and transplanted in rows about 9 inches apart. The crop is reaped in November, December, and January.

The *aman*, sown broadcast and not transplanted, known in Assam as *bao*, is sown in low inundated lands, and, as the water rises, the rice grows with it, the stem at times attaining a height of twelve or even twenty feet. Of all kinds of rice, this is the most rapid in its growth, frequently shooting up twenty inches in twenty-four hours as the inundation rises. Some species of this *dhan* are capable of bearing submersion for seven or eight days, if the water be clear, but if submerged in foul water, the plant dies in a day or two. This kind of *aman* is sown and reaped at the same time as the transplanted species.

Aus, or early rice, is mostly raised upon high-level lands. It is sown with the first showers of the spring and gathered from July to September. It requires more attention in cultivation than the *aman*, and is more liable to failure from the accidents of the season.

Besides these, there is another principal kind of rice, the *boro*, or spring rice, which is cultivated on low marshy lands, being sown in a nursery in October and November, transplanted a month or six weeks later, and harvested in March and April.

These are the principal kinds of rice grown in the province. Each of these includes a large number of varieties familiar to the peasantry, many being peculiar to particular localities.

Eastern Bengal is one of the principal rice-producing tracts in Northern India. The *aus* crop, which produces a coarse rice, is usually consumed locally. A considerable quantity of winter rice is exported, and finds its way to three destinations, from which the rice-trading operations are conducted, *viz.*, (1) to Calcutta, to feed the town population and also for export, (2) to Bihar and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, where the demand is always in excess of the local supply, and (3) to Chittagong, which is the centre of a considerable export trade by sea.

18. The principal pulses, which are consumed most largely by the people of the province, are *muttur* (peas), *khesari*, *mashuri* (lentils), *maskolai*, *moog*, *boot* or *chola* (gram), and *arhur*. All of these pulses are very generally cultivated, and are, with the exception of the last, sown after the subsidence of the rains. They are reaped in the cold weather. *Arhur* is sown with *aus dhan*, and is reaped between February and April. It grows almost on any soil. Pulses or Dal.

19. Mangoes and jack-fruit trees are very common in Bengal, the finest varieties of mangoes being found in Malda. In Assam mangoes are not so generally cultivated and the fruit is generally attacked by worms. Fruits.

Plaintains and betel-nut trees are common in every part of the province except the submerged tracts, and cocoanut trees are found in many Bengal villages. Oranges are grown with great success on the southern slopes of the Khasi Hills, and are exported in great quantities to Calcutta.

20. The cultivation of potatoes in Eastern Bengal is inconsiderable. They are grown to some extent in Rangpur and Jalpaiguri. In Assam, however, the introduction of this staple has been very successful. It is cultivated now throughout the upper plateau of the Khasi Hills proper, though not in the Jaintia country, and it forms an important article of trade. The main route of export to Bengal is *viâ* Cherrapunji and Sylhet, whence the potatoes are conveyed by boat. The exports during the last two years have amounted to 64,244 and 71,312 maunds. Potatoes.

21. The two great commercial staples of the province are however, tea and jute. The discovery, that tea grew wild in the upper part of the Brahmaputra Valley, was made by Mr. Robert Bruce, who learnt of its existence from a Singpho Chief. It was his brother, Mr. C. A. Bruce, however, who first brought down, in 1826, some specimens Tea.

of the indigenous plant from Upper Assam. These specimens were forwarded to the Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens at Calcutta for examination, and were pronounced to be of the same family, but not of the same species, as the plant from which the Chinese manufacture their tea. Nothing further seems to have happened till 1832, when Captain Jenkins was deputed to report on the resources of Assam, and the existence of the tea plant was brought to his special notice by Mr. Bruce. In 1834 a committee was appointed to enquire into and report on the possibility of introducing the cultivation of tea into India, and in 1835 the first attempt was made by Government to establish an experimental plantation at Lakhimpur, but it failed, and the plants were removed to Jaipur, in the Sibsagar district, where a new garden was established. In 1838 the first twelve chests of tea from Assam were received in England, and the reports were highly favourable. It was never, however, the intention of Government to carry on the trade, and in 1840 the experimental establishment was sold to the Assam Tea Company, which had been formed the previous year. In the earlier years the Company was far from prosperous, but about 1852 its prospects began to improve, and in 1859 it had 4,000 acres under cultivation, and an outturn of over 760,000 pounds of tea. Its local expenditure exceeded a lakh of rupees a year in 1853, by which time nine other gardens had been started—all in Upper Assam. The existence of indigenous tea in Cachar and Sylhet was soon afterwards ascertained, and in 1855 a grant of land was made for a tea garden in Cachar. During the next ten years capital flowed into the business from all quarters; land was recklessly taken up, to be sold to speculators in England for extravagant sums; and tea-growing for a time fell into the hands of stock-jobbers and bubble companies. Fresh gardens were opened in all directions, and a period of wild excitement and speculation followed. The mania affected even the Government officers, and three Deputy Commissioners, four Assistant Commissioners, and several Police officers threw up their posts to engage in tea-planting. The crash came in 1866, and for the next few years this promising industry lay in a condition of extreme depression. About 1869 matters began to mend, and, during the next thirty years, there was a steady increase in the number of tea gardens, in the area under cultivation, and in the output of tea.

Between 1893 and 1898, however, the extension of tea cultivation was so rapid that the industry began to suffer from the congestion that follows over-production, and for a time the industry entered once more on a period of depression. Every effort has since been made to reduce expenditure and to open new markets; and this, coupled with the practical stoppage of new extension, is now restoring the equilibrium.

Tea is cultivated in all the plains districts of Assam, in the Jalpaiguri district of the Rajshahi Division, and the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts districts of the Chittagong Division. The following statement gives particulars of the tea industry in Bengal for the year 1905 :—

Districts.	Number of gardens.	Acreage.			Area (in acres) taken up by planters but not under tea cultivation.	Outturn in lbs.	
		Mature.	Immature.	Total.		Green.	Black.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Surma Valley.							
Cachar	159	57,288	1,505	58,793	214,630	369,144	28,290,660
Sylhet	123	71,135	2,002	73,137	130,358	1,491,717	35,130,413
Brahmaputra Valley.							
Goalpara	4	600	106	706	467	...	171,108
Kamrup	19	3,063	300	3,366	12,881	20,320	507,622
Darrang	87	41,015	1,041	42,056	58,783	...	18,510,959
Nowgong	42	11,494	578	12,069	37,919	...	4,576,778
Sibsagar	151	75,268	2,689	77,957	155,551	916,368	29,081,820
Lakhimpur	142	67,381	3,741	71,122	147,403	...	33,709,909
Jalpaiguri	190	75,811	2,954	78,765	160,064	611,559	38,679,656
Chittagong Hill Tracts... ...	1	83	...	83	914	7,030	9,600
Chittagong	24	4,130	151	4,281	5,897	...	1,480,984
Total	942	407,271	15,064	422,335	924,917	3,416,138	190,139,909

Of the two varieties of tea, black and green, the latter is produced in comparatively small quantities, chiefly for the American market.

In the early days of the industry the freshly-picked leaves were rolled by hand into lumps, each about the size of a loaf, and were then left to ferment, after which they were roasted on sieves, over small charcoal fires. This tedious process has now been abandoned and the leaf is rolled by machinery, and fired in great machines. The modern method of manufacturing black tea was described by Mr. Stanton, in a lecture delivered in 1904 before the Society of Arts, as follows :—

As soon as the leaf is plucked, it is laid out thinly on trays or sheets in order that it may wither, in which process the rigidity of the leaf cells disappears and the leaf becomes soft and easily rolled. When this withering process is accomplished, which depends a good deal upon the state of the weather, the leaf is taken into the factory and rolled by machinery, the object of this being to break up the already softened leaf cells, so that the sap then escapes and exudes. When these cells are broken up, the leaf is taken out of the roller and allowed to stand until fermentation, or rather oxidation, sets in ; during this process the leaf changes colour, and when it assumes a bright coppery tint, fermentation is stopped by placing the leaf in the drier, and firing it at a fairly high temperature ; this fixes the fermentation, and in the process the colour of the leaf has changed to nearly black. The tea is then sorted through different sized sieves in order to make it suitable for the requirements of different markets. It is then packed into chests and sent to the market, where it is to be sold.

Green tea is not withered, but is steamed, and then rolled and fired, without being allowed to ferment.

Jute.

22. Jute in this province is of even greater value than tea as an article of export. It is extensively cultivated in the districts of Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, and Tippera, but for domestic purposes it is grown in small quantities over most parts of the province, except the hill districts. The fibre, which is separated from it, is soft and silky, and is used for the manufacture of cordage, cloth, paper and gunny for bags. The area, covered by the crop, is estimated at 2,570,430 acres, and the rapid increase in the quantities exported is a sufficient indication that the cultivation is extending year by year.

Jute grows both on high and on low lands. It is sown from March to May, and cut from July to October. The fibre is extracted by retting the stems in water. It is then taken to the nearest market or to one of the numerous marts, of which the two most important are Sirajganj and Narainganj, and sold to the *farias* or *paikars* (*i.e.*, petty traders) who frequent them, and they in their turn, dispose of it either to the wholesale dealers, from whom they have received advances, or on their own account.

There are no jute mills in the province, and the fibre is either pressed into solid blocks at the baling factories, of which there are many in Narainganj and shipped to Calcutta or Dundee, or despatched to the former place in large circular drums of loosely twisted fibre.

Ganja.

23. As an exciseable product, *ganja* is of great importance. It is cultivated for the sake of the intoxicating drug which is manufactured from it. The plant grows wild all over India, and, in its wild state, attains to a height of sometimes from nine to ten feet, although the cultivated variety seldom rises beyond six. Its narcotic property is due to a resinous substance which is secreted in minute glands in the leaf and the flowers. The cultivation of *ganja*, which is carried on under strict Government supervision, is confined to the Noagaon subdivision of the Rajshahi district. The *ganja* produced there is considered better in quality than any other in India. This tract of about 76 square miles is known as the *ganja mahal*, and beyond its limits, no *ganja* is allowed to be grown. The plant requires very careful cultivation. It is sown in a nursery in August, transplanted five or six weeks later, and is cut in February. Its most important products are the leaves, flowers and resin, all of which are used as intoxicating drugs. The dry leaves are known under the different names of *sidhi*, *bhang*, *patti* and *sabji*, the resin is called *charas*, while the flowers are made into *ganja*.

The total quantities of *ganja* consumed in Bengal and exported to other places during the year 1905-1906 were 5,528 maunds and 1,381 maunds, respectively.

Oilseeds.

24. The principal oilseeds are rape or mustard, linseed and *til*. Of these, mustard is the most important. It is grown largely in the districts of Eastern or Northern Bengal, which contain extensive tracts of alluvial land cropped in the cold weather with oilseeds and pulse, and is an important crop in every district of the Assam Valley. According to the latest estimates, the area sown in mustard in the province amounts to 1,333,735 acres. The normal outturn is estimated at 232,400 tons. It is sown in October and November, and reaped in January and February.

Cotton.

25. Cotton has practically gone out of cultivation in the plains districts of Eastern Bengal as well as of Assam. Its cultivation is confined to the hill districts on the

Tobacco.

Assam Range and on the eastern frontier of the province, where cotton still continues to be an important staple. The total area under cotton in the province in 1905-1906 was estimated at 60,600 acres. All the varieties of cotton grown in the province have a short coarse staple, but are valued in Europe for mixing with wool.

26. With the exception of Rangpur and Jalpaiguri, there is hardly a district in the province in which tobacco is grown for export. It is, however, grown in small quantities everywhere for local consumption. It is reared in a nursery in October, transplanted in November, and is fit for gathering from January to March. The total area under tobacco cultivation is 370,025 acres. The Rangpur, or Kochar tobacco, as it is called, is imported all over East Bengal, and a not inconsiderable quantity leaves the country and is taken to British Burma by the Maghs.

Sugarcane.

27. Sugarcane is grown more or less throughout the province. The total area under this plant is estimated at 224,782 acres. High lands are specially suited for it, but there are some varieties which, like jute, will grow in water. Jaggery, manufactured from the cane, is consumed locally to a large extent, and is also exported from district to district.

Rubber.

28. India-rubber is extracted from the caoutchouc tree (*Ficus elastica*), and two other similar species (*Ficus laccifera* and *obtusifolia*), which are found in the forests at the foot of the hills on the Assam frontier. The forests in British territory have suffered much from over-tapping and more than two-thirds of the rubber now comes from beyond the frontier. The former system of leasing out the right to collect rubber in certain areas in British territory, known as *mahals*, was re-introduced in the Darrang district from 1896-1897 and in Kamrup from 1901-1902, and passes to cross the frontier for the purpose of procuring foreign rubber are issued to the lessees.

In order to maintain the supply of rubber, and to meet the rising demand, the Forest Department started planting operations at Charduar in the Darrang district in 1873, and a few years later at Kulsi in the Kamrup district. At first, nothing was known of the habits of the *Ficus elastica*, and it was not till a few years of experimenting that it was found that seedlings, planted on mounds, gave the best results. This is the system which is generally followed now. The seed, which is contained in a small fig-shaped fruit about the size of a pea, after being broken up between the hands, is sown in beds or boxes in the same way as vegetable or flower-seeds which require transplanting after germination. The seed is sown during the rains and germinates in a few days. When the seedlings are one or two inches high, they are placed in nurseries raised above the ground and drained carefully, and there they remain till the following rains, when they may be planted out in mounds. After this, a little fresh earth or rubbish thrown on three or four times a year is all the attention that is required. A properly cared for artificially grown *Ficus elastica* tree will yield in the twelfth year for the first tapping one pound of rubber, and, if tapped every second year after that, will give more.

The Government Kulsi and Charduar plantations have gone beyond the experimental stage, and tappings are made annually.

The quantity of rubber exported during the last four years was—

	Mds.		Mds.
1902-1903	136	1904-1905	2,751
1903-1904	1,578	1905-1906	1,254

The value of rubber has within recent years gone up, and the duty was accordingly raised from Rs. 12 to Rs. 17 per maund in the year 1900.

Lac.

29. Indigenous lac is found in the Assam forests, but lac is also cultivated by artificial propagation. The lac insect is chiefly reared on two kinds of fig (*Ficus cardifolia* and *Ficus laccifolia*), which are planted on a large scale near villages in Kamrup, the Khasi and Jaintia and Garo Hills. The form in which the great bulk of lac is exported, is stick lac, which consists of small twigs surrounded by cylinders of translucent orange-yellow gum, in which the insects, which deposited it, are imbedded. The export of lac and lac-dye during the last three years has averaged 36,000 maunds.

Oranges.

30. Another important article of traffic, which is exported from the Khasi Hills, consists of oranges, which are produced in great abundance on the slopes of the hills bordering on Sylhet. The orange groves were much damaged by the great earthquake of 1897, but the industry has revived again, and the export in 1905-1906 was 135,213 maunds.

Silk.

31. In former days Rajshahi and Malda were two of the largest silk-producing districts in Eastern Bengal, but the industry has for some time been in a declining state. The extensive importation from Japan and China to Europe since the opening of the

Suez Canal, the abundant yield in Italy, the indifferent quality of the Bengal silk, and the probable fact that the demand for silk goods has not kept pace proportionately with the increased supply thrown upon the market, have all contributed to this falling off. In Malda, the manufacture is carried on for the most part with European capital and under European supervision, but there are in that district some small filatures which are under Indian management. The silk, reeled off in the European factories, is exported almost entirely to Europe. That reeled off in the Indian filatures is sent to the Central Provinces and Central India.

In Assam, two kinds of silk are principally manufactured, *viz.*, the *eri* silk produced by the *eri* silkworm (*Attacus ricini*), which is fed principally on the leaves of the castor-oil plant (*Ricinus communis*), and *muga* silk, produced by the *muga* silkworm (*Antheræa Assama*) which is reared principally on the soom-tree (*Machilus odoratissima*). *Eri* silk forms an important cottage industry but all attempts at producing it on a commercial scale have hitherto failed, the main reason being that the castor plants are particularly liable to destruction by caterpillars when grown in large quantities. Some other kinds of silkworms, *e.g.*, *pát* worm (*Bombyx cræsi*), are reared in this portion of the province, but to a very limited extent.

32. In the hill districts, rice holds a less exclusive place among the crops cultivated. Among the Khasis the system of agriculture is comparatively elaborate, and carefully adjusted to the productive powers of the soil. In the flattish valleys, with which the central plateau abounds, rice is grown in terraced and well-irrigated fields, and such fields are found also in the northern margin of the district wherever the conformation of the surface admits of them. With this exception, however, the rest of their crops are grown on hills sides, the turf and scrub upon which are burnt after being previously arranged in beds, and the seed sown in ashes, which serve as manure. In this way are raised unirrigated rice, potatoes, various kinds of millet and a crop called *sohphlang*, a leguminous plant with a red flower, which produces large number of tubers about the size of a pigeon's egg among its roots; these are eaten raw by the Khasis. Crops in the Hill districts.

Besides these, chiefly on the northern slopes of the hills towards Kamrup and Nowgong, cotton is grown in forest clearings or *jhums*, where the soil is enriched by burning the felled trees and scrub. On the southern face of the hills, and on the slopes stretching into Sylhet, are produced the crops to which the wealth of the Khasis is so largely due,—oranges, betel-nuts, and pineapples. The orange and betel-nut trees grow together in carefully kept and regularly renewed groves, and the pineapple grows like a weed in this region. Besides these field crops, every Khasi village on the plateau has its carefully hedged homestead lands, in which fine crops of potatoes, Indian corn, vegetables, and pulses are raised, with occasional plots of sugarcane.

All the other hill races cultivate entirely by jhuming, clearing the forest with axe and fire, and growing in the space thus secured, among the ashes of the trees and undergrowth, mixed crops of long-stemmed rice, chillies, cotton, millets, and gourds. Land thus *jhumed* is nowhere occupied more than three years. All the cotton grown in the province is raised by the hill tribes in this manner, and is remarkable for its short staple and harsh woolly fibre; indeed, it so much resembles wool that it has found a demand in Europe for mixing with wool for the manufacture of carpets. The only exception to this system of agriculture is found among the Angami Nagas, who have admirably constructed terraced rice-fields, built up with stone retaining-walls at different levels, and irrigated by means of skilfully engineered channels, which distribute the water over each step in the series.

FORESTS.

33. As might be expected from the character of its surface and climate, the area of forest in the Assam Valley is very extensive, and Kamrup is the only district in which there are not very large timber tracts. In the Surma Valley, there is little forest in Sylhet, except on the southern hills stretching up from Tippera, and in the great valley of the Langai and Singla rivers, in the south-eastern corner, where there is a forest tract of 103 square miles. In Cachar, the whole of the south of the district bordering on the Lushai Hills, is a forest reserve, whence the populous district of Sylhet draws its timber supply. Much of the reserved forest is, however, of little value, and, as in the Surma Valley, there is a keen demand for land for cultivation, it has been found advisable to disforest and throw open to cultivation extensive areas in the south of the Cachar and Sylhet districts. On the other hand, two important new reserves of 80 and 35 square miles, respectively, were formed in the North Cachar Hills, in 1899-1900 and 1901-1902, the exploitation of which will, it is hoped, be facilitated by the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway. In the hill districts Forests.

there is less good forest than might be expected, though there is no lack of wooded country. Forest fires and *jhuming* have denuded the interior of the hills, where the people chiefly live, of most of its forests; but along the northern and southern skirts there are large areas of natural forest still untouched.

There are valuable forests also in Jalpaiguri and Chittagong. The total area of reserved forest in the province is now 6,003 square miles.

The most valuable trees in the forests of Assam are *ajhar* (*Lagerstræmia reginæ*) and *sam* (*Artocarpus chaplasha*), which are found throughout the Assam Valley, *nahor* (*Mesua ferrea*), which does not grow in the plains of the Brahmaputra Valley west of the Mikir Hills, though common in the evergreen forests of the Garo and Khasi Hills, *sal* (*Shorea robusta*), which is found only in Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, and the Garo and Khasi Hills, *sissu* (*Dalbergia sissoo*), which is not found east of the Manas river, and *khair* (*Acacia catechu*), which extends eastwards to Charduar in Darrang. In the Surma Valley *nahor* (there called *nagesar*), *ajhar* (there called *jarul*), and *cham* (the *sam* of Assam) are the most important trees. The principal products of Chittagong are bamboos, *jarul* and *garian* (*Dipterocarpus turbinatus*).

The only trees which are important articles of export are *sal*, *sam*, and *ajhar*, which are largely floated down the Brahmaputra into Bengal, and from Cachar into Sylhet, chiefly for boat building. The exploitation of the Cachar forests for the service of Sylhet has always been active, and is extending, while that of the forest in Goalpara and Kamrup does not show any marked advance. *Sal* sleepers have, however, been recently supplied to the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and it is hoped that, with the extension of the line towards Gauhati, this demand will be further developed. The upper part of the Assam Valley is too remote from a market for its timber resources to be yet regularly exploited. Tea boxes are however manufactured from *simul* (*Bombyx Malabaricum*) and other soft woods. It was hoped that the trade in the boxes might develop *pari passu* with the extension of the tea industry, but foreign-made boxes are much in favour with the Calcutta Agents. The bulk of the sleepers used on the Assam-Bengal Railway were obtained outside the province, but the Company has recently begun to use *nahor* sleepers extracted from the Assam forests, and this may develop into a regular demand. There is also a certain demand for large trees, which are hollowed out into canoes.

Elephants.

34. Among the "commercial staples" of the province, elephants should also be mentioned. These valuable animals abound in the forests of the Assam Valley, on the lower slopes of the Assam Range, and are found in South Cachar, South-Eastern Sylhet, and in the forests of the Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions. Elephant *mahals* (or the right of hunting within certain defined tracts) are leased by auction sale to the highest bidder. Besides the price of the *mahal*, the lessee has to pay a royalty of Rs. 100 on each animal captured.

MINES AND MINERALS.

Coal, Upper Assam.

35. The mineral of the first economic importance to Assam is undoubtedly the coal which is found on the north-western face of the Eastern Naga Hills. The existence of coal here has been known since 1825. The question of opening out the fields was reported on by a coal committee, assembled at Calcutta in 1840 and 1845. The localities were summarily examined by Mr. Medlicott, of the Geological Survey, in 1865; and in the seasons 1874-75 and 1875-76 Mr. Mallet, of the same Survey, made a careful inspection of all the coal outcrops from the Tirap to the Desoi river. His report, which contains a detailed description of the several fields, will be found in Volume XII of the Memoirs of the Geological Survey. The coal measures extend along a distance of about 110 miles, but are exposed only where the river valleys have cut into them. Five coal-fields have been described and named by Mr. Mallet, *viz.*, the Makum, Jaipur, Nazira (Dikhu and Safrai), Jhanzi, and Desoi fields. The most important is the Makum field on the Dihing river, where the seams reach an immense thickness. Several desultory attempts had, from time to time, been made to work the coal there, but owing to difficulties of labour and transport, due to the uninhabited character of the country, and the difficult navigation of the Dihing river, no large quantity had, at any time, been brought out, until 1881 when the mine was leased to the Assam Railways and Trading Company, and a railway was constructed from the Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh to the coal measures on the Dihing. Since that time the mines have been vigorously worked, and the output of coal has risen steadily.

A portion of the Dikhu or Nazira field, situated a short distance within the hills south of Sibsagar, whence that river issues, is held on lease by the Assam Company, but, except for the needs of the lessees, has not yet been worked to any extent. The

other outcrops, the Jaipur field in the Dihing, which is very favourably situated for working, and the Jhanzi and Desoi fields, which are less accessible from the plains, have not yet been exploited.

36. Coal has also been found in the Garo and Khasi and Jaintia Hills. This coal is of two very distinct kinds, the older or cretaceous coal and the newer or tertiary in the nummulitic limestone. The largest field of cretaceous coal is situated in the valley of the Someswari in the Garo Hills near Darrangiri. The coal measures cover an area of about fifty square miles, but the only area in which they could be profitably worked is a tract about 20 square miles in area, between Darrangiri and the Rengchi stream. The coal varies very much in quality and no serious attempt has yet been made to work it. Garo and Khasi Hills.

Cretaceous coal is found in the Khasi Hills, at Maobehlarkhar near Maoflang at Langrin on the Jadukata river, at Borsora, Wapung, and Lenkensmit. The former has been worked several years by the native villagers in a primitive way for the local supply of the Shillong station which is some twenty miles away. It is an excellent quality of coal similar to that found in the Garo Hills, but the seam extends over a small area only. The Langrin seam extends over an area of some 30 square miles, and, being at the foot of the hills, is in a very accessible situation; the seam is, however, only some 3 feet thick. Coal is also found at Longlai and on the Nambor river in the Mikir Hills, but it is poor in quality and would hardly pay to work.

The largest deposits of nummulitic coal in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are found at Cherraponji, Laitryngew, Maolong, Mustoh, Maosanram, Maodon, Thanjinath Lakadong, and Narpo.

The Cherrapunji coal-field has been estimated by Mr. LaTouche (*vide* Records of the Geological Survey, India, Volume XXII, Part III) to contain 1,200,000 tons. Owing to its high elevation (4,560 feet), it is however difficult to arrange means of transport from this field.

The Lakadong field is situated some way to the east and has also been surveyed and reported on by Mr. LaTouche (*vide* Volume XXIII, Part I, page 14). It is thought that there are about a million tons of coal in this field but the cost of conveyance to the plains would be considerable.

Coal-beds have recently been discovered in the vicinity of the Shillong-Gauhati road, 8 miles north of Shillong, but the geological system to which they belong has not been determined.

37. Iron is found in several places in Assam. In the Khasi Hills it is derived from the minute crystals of titaniferous iron ore, which are found in the decomposed granite on the surface of the central dyke of that rock, near the highest portion of the plateau. Iron.

The quality of the iron is excellent, and it is still sought after to some extent for manfacture into hoes and *daos*.

In Upper Assam, clay iron stone occurs in nodules of various sizes, and sometimes in thin beds, interstratified with shales and sandstones, in the coal measures of the Naga Hills; but it is believed that the ore is not in sufficient abundance to afford a supply for a blast furnace on the English principle; while the scarcity of limestone required to form a flux, would, even if the ore were in greater quantity, probably form an inseparable obstacle to operations on a large scale. Iron ore is also of widespread occurrence in the South Mikir Hills, but no attempt has been made to work deposits. The Company, who have the concession of the Makum coal-field, have also the monopoly of the iron of that region, but have hitherto made no attempt to work it. The iron ore, formerly smelted in Sibsagar, was derived both from the clay iron-stones in the coal measures (chiefly those of the Nazira field), and from the impure limestone which occurs in great abundance in the Tipam rocks south of the Dhodar Ali; the former was the source most used.

38. Pyritous shales are also found associated with the coal measures of Upper Assam; and it may perhaps hereafter be found profitable to use them for the manufacture of alum and copperas. Alum.

39. Petroleum is found in the neighbourhood of the coal of Upper Assam. It is a heavy oil, containing a comparatively small proportion of the light illuminating hydro-carbons, but has excellent lubricating qualities and yields a large proportion of paraffine wax. The earliest experiments in working it were made at Nohor Pung, in the Jaipur field (where they were a failure) and near Makum where a considerable amount of oil was extracted in 1868. A concession for working petroleum in the Makum field was granted to the Assam Railways and Trading Company in 1882-83, and two similar Petroleum.

concessions in the same neighbourhood were granted in 1892—one to the Company already mentioned, and the other to a syndicate. In 1900 the Assam Oil Company was formed and took over these concessions from the original proprietor. A large refinery was erected at Digboi and a big business is now done in lubricating and illuminating oils, candles and wax.

Besides the petroleum of Upper Assam, this mineral is also found in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and in Cachar. In the latter district oil is found at Masimpur and Badarpur on the banks of the Barak, and on the Larang, a small stream which rises to the north of Damcharahaja. Traces of it have also been seen at various places in the Saraspur Hills. The natural oil springs, which have long been known to exist in the Khasimara Valley on the southern slope of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, will possibly prove to be of great importance, recent analysis having shown that this oil is free from wax and of high lubricating power.

Salt.

40. Salt-springs are found in conjunction with petroleum in the Upper Assam coal area, at Borhat, Jaipur, and other places. In former times their brine was largely used for conversion into merchantable salt; and to this day a small quantity of salt so made is imported by the Nagas into Jaipur. Salt-springs exist in Cachar, both in the southern ranges (Sirispur and Bhuban Hills) and in the Barail. Those in the Hailakandi Valley, in mauzas Bansbari and Chandlipur, are the only ones which are now worked, though formerly the industry was more extensive. The springs are leased annually for a trifling sum; the brine is not boiled down, the water being disposed of in *gharas* to the people of the neighbouring villages. Several salt-springs are worked in Manipur, where they are highly valued.

Lime.

41. Next in importance to coal in this province are the vast stores of limestone which exist on the southern face of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, where the downward bending strata of the nummulitic rocks have been worked as a lime-supply from a period long anterior to British rule. "Sylhet lime" was a monopoly of the Mogul Governors of Bengal, and, as such, figures in the early *sanads*, *farmans*, and treaties by which the East India Company acquired command over that province. The limestone is found from the exit of the Someswari river in the Garo Hills to that of the Hari river in Jaintia; but it can only be economically worked where special facilities exist for its transport from the quarries to the kiln. The most important of these quarries are those situated on the Jadukata and Punatirth rivers, which debouch near Laur in Sylhet; the Dwara quarries to the east of these; the Shella quarries on the Bogapani; the Maolong, Byrang, Sohbhar, and Borpunji quarries which lie immediately under Cherrapunji; and the Utma quarries a little to the east on an affluent of the Piyain. Those beyond have rarely been worked, the advantages possessed by the quarries nearer the great limestone marts of Chhatak and Sunamganj enabling the latter to undersell them. Altogether, there are 32 limestone tracts which are separately treated as quarries in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, one in Sylhet, and one in the Garo Hills. The Government is the sole proprietor of all the quarries in the Jaintia and Garo Hills and the one in Sylhet, as well as of eight in the Khasi Hills; the remainder (with one exception) are the joint property of the Khasi rulers or communities and the British Government, the latter administering the estates and reaping half the profits.

One of the principal difficulties with which the tract has to contend is the difficulty of transport. The streams that issue from the hills do not admit of the passage of large boats and the stone has to be conveyed over the rapids in small canoes. Below the rapids it is generally reloaded on larger boats, and carried down to the Su ma river on the banks of which it is burnt into lime during the cold weather. The kilns are of a primitive description, being mere excavations in the river bank, faced and roofed with clay. The fuel used consists of the reeds and grasses of the swampy tract which stretches along the foot of the hills. This industry gives employment to a great number of people, the quarriers being generally Khasis, and the boatmen and lime-burners Bengalis of Sylhet. A certain quantity of limestone is also exported to Calcutta to be burnt there.

Limestone is also extracted in small quantities from the Doigrung, a tributary of the Dhansiri, a few miles south of Golaghat. A description of this formation, which has not yet been systematically worked, will be found in the Records of the Geological Survey, Volume XVII, page 31. There are also considerable deposits of good limestone on the Deopani, Hariajan, and Jamuna rivers in the Mikir Hills, but they are too inaccessible to repay the cost of extraction.

Gold.

42. Gold dust is found in the bed of the Brahmaputra and many of its tributaries. This gold is probably doubly derivative, and is washed out of the tertiary sandstones of the sub-Himalayan formations, themselves the result of the denudation of the crystalline rocks in the interior of the chain. The industry was maintained in the time of the

Assam Rajas by the peculiar system of taxation which then prevailed, and in the middle of the eighteenth century the gold washers are said to have handed over as much as 2,500 ounces annually to the king. Since the British occupation of the country, the pursuit of the precious metal has dwindled almost to nothing, and the lease of the gold-washings in North Lakhimpur has of late years been sold for Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 a year. In 1882, a European speculator obtained a monopoly for ten years of the right of seeking gold in the Subansiri and its tributaries, but his operations were not attended with success. In 1894 a syndicate was formed, and considerable sums of money were expended on the exploration of the rivers of the Lakhimpur district, but gold was not found anywhere in paying quantities, and no return was obtained on the capital embarked in the venture. Another enterprise of the kind was that of a syndicate of gentlemen who took out a license to prospect for gold in the Subansiri river in North Lakhimpur in 1901. The expert employed by this syndicate reported unfavourably on the prospects of the undertaking and nothing more was done. In 1904 a survey of the river gravel deposits of Assam was made by the Geological Department, but the potential value of the gold deposits was found to be small. The best results were obtained from the Dirjai bar on the Subansiri river. A report on this survey will be found in volume XXXI, Part IV, of the Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India. Traces of gold have also been found at Maoflong and near Laitlyngkot in the Khasi Hills.

43. Platinum has been noticed with samples of gold obtained from washings in the Noa Dihing river. Platinum.

MANUFACTURES.

44. The chief articles of manufacture in the Rajshahi division are silk, *ganja* and tea. Silk is produced in the districts of Rajshahi and Malda. The estimated annual outturn being about 54,000 pounds, *Endi*, a species of coarse silk, is manufactured on a small scale in Dinajpur and Rangpur for home consumption. *Ganja* of the best quality is grown in the Noagaon subdivision of the Rajshahi district, whence it is exported to all parts of Bengal, Assam, Cooch Behar, and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. The manufacture of tea is the principal industry in Jalpaiguri. A sketch of this industry has been given earlier in this chapter. Gunny cloths and bags are made in the district of Dinajpur and exported to Calcutta and elsewhere. *Phota*, a kind of coarse but durable cloth, is made for the use of women in this district, as well as in Jalpaiguri. Cotton *dhoties*, *saris*, bed-sheets, suitings, and many varieties of checked cotton material are manufactured in the district of Pabna on a large scale, and are greatly in demand on account of their fineness of texture. Brass and bell-metal utensils are made in Kalam and Budpara in the Natore subdivision, of the Rajshahi district, in Nilphamari and Kurigram subdivisions of the Rangpur district, and in Pabna. They are also manufactured in Malda where the industry is most prosperous. Mats are manufactured in Dinajpur and Pabna, and carpets in Nisbetganj, a village of Rangpur. Ivory-carving is done to a small extent in Panga, a village in the Kurigram subdivision of the Rangpur district. In Malda *sajnis* (cotton carpets) are prepared by the women of old Malda and sold locally. East Bengal. Rajshahi Division.

45. Among the indigenous manufactures of the Dacca division, the muslin and the gold, silver and shell ornaments of Dacca enjoy a very high reputation, but the muslin industry is in a languishing condition, owing to the competition of cheaper machine-made articles, imported from Europe. Brass and bell-metal wares, *ghee*, cane-boxes, dry-fish, *endi* cloth and molasses are the principal articles of manufacture in the Mymensingh district. Bakarganj produces oil, *charkhana* for mosquito curtains, mats, knives, agricultural implements and molasses. Faridpur is noted for its fine mats and cotton check cloth. There are oil-mills, worked by machinery at Dacca, Jhalakati and Bhola, and a small soap factory at Dacca. Dacca Division.

46. Brass utensils, cane and bamboo baskets, agricultural implements and molasses are the chief manufactures in Tippera. A kind of coarse cloth, made at Mainamati and elsewhere, commands a considerable sale in the local markets, and is exported to a small extent beyond the division. There is a workshop at Chandpur, where cutlery, hinges, sickles, scissors, etc., are manufactured, while an oil-mill at the same place is reported to have turned out 19,000 maunds of oil during the year. There are no manufactures of importance in Noakhali. Coarse varieties of cotton cloth, bamboo mats, baskets, earthen pots and rough agricultural implements are manufactured here for local use. Chittagong was formerly known for ship building, but this important industry has died out completely. Rice-milling and tea growing are the other two important industries in this district. Chittagong Division.

Assam.

47. In Assam tea is the most important article of manufacture. Particulars relating to this industry have been given in paragraphs 548-552. There are 14 saw-mills in the province which turn out tea-boxes and scantlings, and one brick and pipe works at Ledo. A large refinery was erected near the oil wells at Digboi and a trade is now growing up in petroleum oil and candles. Of the indigenous Assamese manufactures, the most important are silk thread and fabrics, cotton fabrics woven mostly from imported thread, brass utensils, oil expressed from the seeds of mustard and *til*, coarse sugar, a few kinds of jewellery, and common domestic pottery.

Silk.

48. The silk fabrics are the produce chiefly of the Assam Valley. The white cloth made of *pát* silk is an article of luxury, and cannot easily be obtained except on order. The *muga* silk, which has a bright yellow colour and a pretty gloss, is very generally used as an article of dress, especially in the upper portion of the Assam Valley. *Eri* silk, which is much more extensively manufactured than *muga*, is generally worn in cold months by the peasantry, and is purchased in considerable quantities by the Bhutia traders, and by the hill tribes to the north and north-east of Sadiya, and is also exported to Bengal. By the Kukis and Mikirs, in the lower parts of the central range of Assam, the thread is woven into the striped cloths which form the ordinary dress of all the tribes inhabiting those high lands. It is impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the quantity of *muga* or *eri* produced annually in any part of Assam, the manufacture of both these articles being entirely domestic.

Cotton.

49. The weaving of cotton is very generally practised as a home industry by women in the Assam Valley. In the Surma Valley, weaving was never a household industry, but was confined to the Tantis and Jugis, professional weaving castes. In both the valleys the thread is almost all imported, and cotton spinning has practically become a lost art. The hill tribes, however, spin their own cotton. Among them weaving occupies much the same position as in the Assam Valley, and the cloths they make exhibit great variety of pattern, and are often gaily coloured with native dyes.

Brass.

50. Brass utensils are made by the Morias, a low Muhammadan caste, found chiefly in the districts of Sibsagar and Nowgong. These are of the rudest kind, without any attempt at finish or ornamentation. A style of vessels, somewhat superior to these, is made at Gauhati and at Sarthibari in Kamrup.

Oil and sugar.

51. The manufacture of mustard oil is of modern introduction. The mill used is the ordinary bullock-mill of Upper India, and is gradually supplanting the domestic oil-press, which consists simply of a short beam loaded with a heavy stone. Of recent years there has been a considerable extension of sugarcane cultivation with a corresponding fall in the price of *gur* or jaggery, which is generally produced by the most primitive methods. A beginning has, however, been made in the introduction of improved iron sugar mills.

Jewellery.

52. The most artistic jewellery produced in Assam is the gold filigree work made at Barpeta, and the enamelled earrings and lockets of Jorhat. The Khasi bracelets, necklets, and earrings in gold and silver are handsome ornaments, though somewhat heavy in design ; and the Manipuri jewellery, of similar patterns, is limited in Sylhet.

Ivory works, etc., in Sylhet.

53. The most important manufacture of Sylhet, after tea, is lime, which is burnt on the banks of the Surma river. Other specialities of the district are mats made of bamboo and reeds, boxes, furniture made of reeds, leaf umbrellas, bracelets of shell and lac, *agar*, or attar, a perfume distilled from the resinous sap of the *agar* tree, children's toys, fish oil, dried fish and boats. Iron work inlaid with brass, lac inlaid with feathers and talc, and ivory fans and chessmen used formerly to be manufactured, but these arts are now in a very languishing condition.

POLITICAL.

SECTION 2.—Historical summary of the Civil Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Introductory.

45. The different portions of territory, included in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam were formerly quite distinct, and have different histories; they were brought under British administration at different times and in different ways, and it is, therefore, necessary to treat them separately before proceeding to describe the present organisation of the province. This section accordingly gives separately the history of the following areas :—

I.—Eastern Bengal.
II.—Assam Proper.
III.—Goalpara, including the Eastern Duars.
IV.—Cachar.
V.—The Hill Districts.

55. The English first came to Bengal in the first half of the seventeenth century. Their trade with the country practically began in 1642, when they set up a factory at Balasore, but their permanent establishment may be said to date from 1652, when Sultan Shah Suja, a son of Shah Jehan and the local ruler, or Subadar, of Bengal, allowed them to open a factory at Hooghly, where the Portuguese had already erected a well-fortified settlement. This privilege was, however, liable to all the changes and caprices of an oriental rule, and the vexations and extortions to which the East India Company's Agents were subjected induced them, in 1686, to abandon the trade and withdraw from Bengal altogether. Four years later, a reconciliation was effected (as the loss from the cessation of English trade was considerable), and Charnock returned and founded Calcutta in A.D. 1690. During the next fifty years, the English had a long and hazardous struggle, alike with the Moghul Governors of the province, and with the Maharatta armies which invaded it. In 1756, this struggle culminated in the great outrage, known as the Black Hole of Calcutta, which was avenged by Lord Clive in the battle of Plassey. That battle, and the subsequent years of confused fighting, established the supremacy of the English in Bengal, and the Company's officers, instead of being the humble dependents of the Moghul power, became henceforth the real arbiters of affairs. In 1760 the three districts of Burdwan, Midnapur, and Chittagong, which yielded about one-third of the whole revenue of Bengal, were granted to them revenue free and, by a treaty, dated the 25th of February 1765, the military defence of the country was made over to them. Six months later, by a *farman*, dated the 12th August 1765, the grant of the "Dewani" of Bengal, Behar and Orissa* was made to the Company by Shah Alam, the titular Emperor of Delhi, on condition of payment to him of a fixed sum of twenty-six lakhs annually and of providing for the expense of the "Nizamat," *i.e.*, the Criminal and Military Administration. As the Dewani included the administration of civil justice as well as the collection of revenue, the grant put the Company into virtual possession of the three provinces.

Eastern Bengal.

Rise of the power of the East India Company in Bengal.

Burdwan, Midnapur, and Chittagong acquired by the Company. Grant of Dewani.

56. Bengal, of which the sovereignty was thus virtually transferred to the Company, consisted then of the districts of the present Burdwan, Presidency, Bhagalpur, Patna, Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong Divisions and of Goalpara and Sylhet. Sylhet and Goalpara were placed under the administration of Assam in 1874, but the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions and the Rajshahi Division *minus* the district of Darjeeling and *plus* the district of Malda from the Bhagalpur Division have recently been separated from that province, and included in the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The civil history of these divisions forms an integral part of the history of Bengal.

Territory transferred to the East India Company.

57. The districts of Midnapur, Burdwan, Chittagong and the 24-Parganas, which had been acquired before, were already under the management of the East India Company's servants: they were not, however, in a position yet to undertake the collection of the revenue of the whole of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, which was, therefore, left up till 1769 in the hands of two Native Naibs, or Deputy Dewans, one for Murshidabad and another for Behar, who worked under the control of two European officers.

Measures taken after the acquisition of the Dewani.

58. In that year, supervisors were appointed to superintend the native officers employed in collecting the revenue and in administering justice. They were instructed to ascertain the revenue history of the province; the state, produce and capacity of the lands, the amount of revenue, cesses and other demands levied from the raiyats; the nature and extent of the different manufactures, and the impositions levied on them, with other particulars necessary for the regulation of commerce; and whatever might tend to a knowledge of the abuses in the administration of justice and to the promotion of reform.

Supervisors.

59. The intention thus to supervise and control the native revenue administration was excellent, but it entirely failed of realization; the information collected by the supervisors showed that the internal government of the country was in a state of profound disorder. Nevertheless, seven years elapsed from the acquisition of the Dewani before the Company deemed itself competent to remedy the defects, and it was not till the 28th of August 1771 that the Court of Directors announced their intention "to stand forth as Dewan, and, by the agency of the Company's servants, to take upon themselves the entire care and management of the revenues." This was the beginning of the direct revenue control by the East India Company.

Beginning of the Revenue Control of the Company.

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* The Orissa of the eighteenth century consisted of Midnapur and part of the present Hooghly district. Orissa proper was not conquered until 1803.

60. The system, which was then adopted for the better government of the country, was as follows:—

First Board of Revenue.

So far as the Revenue Department was concerned, a Board of Revenue was consituted at the Presidency, consisting of the Governor and Members of Council and an Accountant General with assistants. The *khalsa*, or exchequer, and the treasury were at the same time removed from Murshidabad to Calcutta, while the Naib Dewans at Murshidabad and Patna were abolished and their duties transferred to the supervisors, who were now styled "Collectors." A fixed Dewan was joined with each of them in the superintendence of the revenues.

Collectors.

Civil and Criminal Courts.

In the Judicial Department, under the Regulations of the 15th August 1772, two courts were established for each provincial Division or Collectorship,—one a Dewani Adalat, or Civil Court, presided over by the Collector, which took cognizance of all civil cases, and the other, a Faujdari Adalat, or Criminal Court, presided over by the Kazi and the Mufti of the district and two Maulvis, which had jurisdiction in all criminal matters. It was, however, the duty of the Collector to see that the proceedings of this Court were regular and the decisions impartial.

Sadr Courts.

An appeal from these Courts lay to the Sadr Dewani Adalat, or Chief Civil Court, and to the Nizamat Adalat, or Chief Criminal Court, which were established at the chief centre of Government. The former consisted of the President and Members of Council, assisted by the native officers of the *khalsa*, or exchequer, and the latter of a chief officer of justice appointed on the part of the Nawab Nazim and styled Darogah-i-Adalat, the Head Kazi and Mufti and three eminent Maulvis. The proceedings of this Court were subject to the control of the President and Council.

Collectors withdrawn.

Provincial Revenue Councils established.

61. The system thus introduced underwent a change next year under the instructions of the Court of Directors. The European Collectors were abolished, and their places were taken by the native Dewans or Amils, while the superintendence of the collection of the revenue was vested in six Provincial Councils, established at Calcutta, Murshidabad, Dacca, Dinajpur, Patna and Burdwan.

Changes in the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice.

Changes in the Nizamat.

62. On these Councils also devolved, after the recall of the Collectors, the duty of administering civil justice. The Amils were vested with certain judicial powers, but an appeal lay from their decisions to the Councils. The President found the duty of supervising the administration of criminal justice too onerous, and the Nizamat Adalat was consequently retransferred from Calcutta to Murshidabad and placed under the control of Mahamad Reza Khan, who was appointed Naib Nazim. At the same time Foujdars, or Native Officers of police, were appointed to the fourteen districts into which Bengal was divided for the suppression of dacoity or gang robbery.

Establishment of separate Civil Courts.

Number of these Courts increased to eighteen.

63. The next important change took place in 1780, when district Civil Courts with powers to take cognizance of all causes of a civil nature, and presided over by Company's servants, styled "Superintendents of Dewani Adalats," were established in the six divisions mentioned above, independent of the Provincial Councils which still retained jurisdiction over all cases appertaining directly to the public revenue. The jurisdiction of the six Civil Courts was, however, soon found to be too large, and in the following year eighteen Civil Courts (inclusive of these six) were established at the most populous and central towns of the provinces. Fourteen of these were presided over by Company's servants, "hereafter to be styled Judges instead of Superintendents," and the remaining four, *viz.*, Chettra (Hazaribagh), Boglepore (Bhagalpur), Islamabad (Chittagong) and Rangpur by officers who were Judges, Magistrates and Collectors combined, with this provision, however, in the case of the latter officers, that their judicial authority was to be considered as entirely distinct from their revenue functions.

Abolition of Provincial Revenue Councils.

Civil Judges vested with executive magisterial powers.

64. Simultaneously with the extension of the Civil Courts, the Provincial Councils were abolished, and their duties transferred to a Committee of Revenue at the Presidency, consisting of four covenanted servants; the general intention of the scheme being "that all collections of the provinces should be brought down to the Presidency, and be there administered by a Committee of the most able and experienced of the covenanted servants of the Company under the immediate inspection of the Governor General and Council." In order to prevent any bad consequences of too sudden a change, the chiefs of the Provincial Councils were directed to remain in charge of their divisions until recalled by further orders. At about the same time the Faujdars, introduced in 1774, were abolished, and the Judges of the Civil Courts were vested with the power of apprehending dacoits and persons charged with the commission of any crime or acts of violence. They were not, however, to try them, but to send them to the Daroga of the nearest Faujdari Court. Certain zamindars were also invested with similar jurisdiction.

65. The state of affairs in 1781 was, therefore, this— State of affairs in 1781.

I.—All matters of revenue were dealt with by the Committee of Revenue at the Presidency.

II.—Civil justice was administered by the Civil Courts in the eighteen districts into which Bengal was divided.

III.—All criminal cases were still under the jurisdiction of the Faujdari Courts, but the Judges of the Civil Courts had the power to arrest criminals and to send them for trial there.

IV.—The Sadr Dewani Adalat at Calcutta and the Nizamat Adalat at Murshidabad still continued to be the chief courts of appeal.

66. The plan of managing the whole business of the revenue at the Presidency without the assistance of responsible local agents was soon found to be impracticable, and the withdrawal of the Collectors to have been a mistake. Mr. Shore, writing in 1782, expressed his opinion that the real state of the districts was then less known and the revenues less understood than in 1774. The Committee of Revenue was accordingly instructed in 1786 to divide out the *huzuri mahals* (*i.e.*, *mahals* paying their revenue direct into the Government Treasury) into Collectorships in such a manner that no one Collectorship should exceed in *jama* the sum of eight lakhs of rupees. Collectors reappointed.

67. Under the instructions which Lord Cornwallis brought with him from England in that year, the revenue and judicial institutions of the country were again modified.

The Committee of Revenue was replaced by a Board of Revenue; one of the members of Government was made the President of this Board, which, in other respects, "was expressly constituted on the foundation and principle of the committee." Its functions were declared to be "deliberation, superintendence, and control" and its principal duty to be supervision over the officers under its charge, so that they might perform their duties with regularity, integrity and assiduity. The rules passed for its guidance were subsequently incorporated in Regulation II of 1793, the essential portions of which are still in force. Board of Revenue established.

68. As for the administration of justice, the Directors, stating that they were actuated by the necessity of accommodating their views and interests to the subsisting manners and usage of the people, rather than by any abstract theories drawn from other countries or applicable to a different state of things, ordered that the offices of Judge and Collector should be united in the same person, who was also to have the power of apprehending offenders against the public peace. Accordingly, except in the case of the three Civil Courts in the cities of Patna, Murshidabad. and Dacca, the European civil servants in each of the districts were vested with the powers of Judge, Collector, and Magistrate. Union of the offices of Judge, Collector and Magistrate, 1786.

The trial and punishment of offenders arrested by Magistrates, however, still remained in the hands of the Nawab Nazim and his officers, but by the year 1790 it became more and more apparent that the administration of criminal justice was thoroughly inefficient. Accordingly, the Governor General in Council, "with a view to ensure a prompt and impartial administration of the criminal law, and that all ranks of people might enjoy security of person and property," resolved "to resume the superintendence of criminal justice throughout the provinces." In conformity with this resolution, the Nizamat Adalat was, by a Regulation dated the 3rd of December 1790, removed from Murshidabad to Calcutta to consist of the Governor General and Members of the Supreme Council, assisted by the head Muhammadan law officers. At the same time four Courts of Circuit were established for the Divisions of Calcutta. Dacca, Murshidabad, and Patna, each to be presided over by two Covenanted Civil Servants, assisted by a Kazi and Mufti, for the trial of cases not cognizable by the Magistrates, who were empowered to hear and determine complaints of a petty nature. Changes in the administration of criminal justice.

69. Lord Cornwallis had carried out the instructions of the Court of Directors in uniting the offices of Judge, Collector, and Magistrate in the same person; but experience soon satisfied him that the result of this system would be to sacrifice the administration of justice to the supposed fiscal interests of Government. He, therefore, determined to vest the collection of revenue and the administration of justice in separate officers, to abolish the Revenue Courts and to withdraw from the Collectors of Revenue all judicial powers, transferring the cognizance of all causes previously tried by the Revenue officers to the Courts of Dewani Adalat. At the same time Government resolved "to divest itself of the power of interfering in the administration of the laws and regulations in the first instance; reserving only, as a Court of appeal or review, the decision of certain cases in the last resort; and to lodge its judicial authority in Courts of Justice." Separation of the offices of Judge and Collector.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Constitution of the Courts under the Regulations of 1793.

70. The constitution of the Courts for the administration of civil and criminal justice was, therefore, remodelled by the Regulations of 1793 as follows :—

I. A new Court of Civil Judicature was established in 23 zillas and a City Court in three districts (at Dacca, Murshidabad, and Patna), each presided over by a single Judge, who also held the office of Magistrate for the zilla or city under his jurisdiction, in which latter capacity he was vested with the superintendence and control of the police. These Judge-Magistrates, in their capacity as Magistrates exercised minor criminal jurisdiction and committed persons, charged with heinous offences for trial before the Courts of Circuit. In their capacity as Civil Judges, they took cognizance of all suits and complaints of a civil nature. An appeal lay from their decision to the Provincial Court.

II. "Native" Commissioners were appointed to hear and decide, in the first instance, suits of personal property not exceeding the value of Rs. 50. Their services might be utilized in three ways, *viz.*, (1) as amins or referees ; (2) as salisan or arbitrators, and (3) as munsifs or native justices. They were not paid by fixed salary, but by commission on the amount of causes investigated by them. An appeal lay from their decisions to the Civil Judge.

III. Four Provincial Courts of Appeal and Circuit, one for each of the divisions of Calcutta, Dacca, Murshidabad and Patna, and each presided over by three Judges, were established. These were in fact the Courts of Circuit, established in 1790, remodelled as to their constitution and jurisdiction. The Provincial Courts had an original jurisdiction in certain civil cases and heard appeals from the decisions of the Zilla Judges. The same courts, as courts of criminal jurisdiction, tried all prisoners committed by the Magistrates. There was no appeal from the Courts of Circuit, but an appeal lay from the Provincial Courts of Appeal to the Sadr Dewani Adalat or Governor General and Council in Calcutta, when the suit exceeded Rs. 5,000 in value.

The territorial jurisdictions of these courts, as laid down in Regulation V of 1793, were as follows :—

(1) Calcutta Division :—

24-Parganas, Burdwan, Jungle Mahals, Midnapur, including the salt districts to the west of the Hooghly river, Jessore, Nadia, and the zillas of Calcutta, Serampur and Birbhum.

(2) Dacca Division :—

Dacca, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Tippera, Chittagong, Dacca-Jellalpur.*

(3) Murshidabad Division :—

Murshidabad, Bhagalpur, Purnea, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Rajshahi and the districts under the superintendence of the Commissioner of Cooch Behar which were not included in the independent territories of the Raja of Cooch Behar.

(4) Patna Division :—

Patna, Ramghur, and the zillas of Behar proper, Tirhut, Saran and Shahabad.

IV. The Sadr Dewani Adalat and Nizamat Adalat, which may be regarded as a single Court having a civil and criminal jurisdiction, were reconstituted. The members of this Court were the Governor General and Members of Council, with the addition, on the criminal side, of the Head Kazis of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa and two Muftis. The Sadr Dewani Adalat exercised no original civil jurisdiction, and heard appeals from the decrees of the Provincial Courts in cases in which an appeal was allowed by law. The jurisdiction of the Nizamat Adalat was exercised in capital cases, and in cases in which a sentence of imprisonment for life appeared proper, such cases being referred to this Court for final orders by the Courts of Circuit.

To each of the three classes of courts (I, III and IV) was attached a Registrar, who was the chief ministerial officer of the court, and also exercised minor judicial powers.

* The districts of Dacca-Jellalpur and of the city of Dacca were abolished by Regulation V of 1832 and formed into the single district of Dacca. Jellalpur is the name of a pargana in the Faridpur district. The original Dacca-Jellalpur included that zilla, and the headquarters of the district were in 1812 located at Faridpur. In 1833 the independent Joint Magistracy and Deputy Collectorate of Faridpur was established and was declared a full Magistracy and Collectorate on the reorganization of 1859.

Changes since 1793.

71. Such is a sketch of the revenue and judicial systems which Lord Cornwallis introduced. It is often said that the systems then established exist, more or less altered, now. It is perhaps more accurate to say that so many alterations and improvements have been made that it is difficult to recognise the original structure of 1793 in the larger and more modern edifice of the present day. In order to convey an idea of the changes which have been made since that date, it will be convenient to take separately each of the institutions and trace its history. This will be done in the following order :—

(1) The Revenue Department.
(2) Sadr Dewani and Nizamat Adalats.
(3) The Provincial Courts and Courts of Circuit.
(4) Judge-Magistrates.
(5) Native Judicial Officers.

Revenue Department. Changes in the Board.

In the organization of the Board of Revenue no further changes were made till the year 1807, and then only to provide supervision for other acquisitions of territory. By Regulation X of that year a Board of Commissioners was appointed for the Upper Provinces, and in 1817 another was constituted for Benares and Behar, including two districts of Bengal, *viz.*, Dinajpur and Rangpur. By Regulation I of 1819, however, the management of the revenues of these two districts was replaced under the Calcutta Board of Revenue. By Regulation III of 1822, provision was made for a better division of labour and three Boards of Revenue were created—one for the Lower Provinces, one for Central Bengal, and one for the Western Provinces. From this time the Board of Revenue for the Lower Provinces continued to exercise its powers in the districts of Bengal alone. This Board remained unaltered until the year 1829, when the revenue system having developed, cultivation extended and the work considerably increased, arrangement was made for the direct supervision of manageable groups of districts by Revenue Commissioners, and to restrict the scope of the Board's duties to a general and ultimate control at the headquarters.

Commissioners appointed.

Accordingly, by Regulation I of that year, Commissioners were appointed with general powers of supervision and control but subject to the authority of the Board of Revenue. The territorial extent of their charge was then determined to be such that the presiding officers might "be easy of access to the people" and be able "frequently to visit the different parts of their respective jurisdictions." At first they were also vested with Civil Court powers and were Criminal Judges of Circuit, but they were, as we shall see later on, gradually relieved of these duties.

Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors appointed.

Other additions to the *personnel* of the Revenue Department have been the appointment of Deputy Collectors in 1833, and that of Sub-Deputy Collectors in 1872. These appointments were in the first instance open only to "natives of India of any class or religious persuasion," but were extended, by Act X of 1843, to all persons of whatever religion, place of birth, descent or colour.

Present constitution of the Revenue Department.

The Revenue Department now consists of (i) the Board of Revenue on which two Members sit, (ii) of Commissioners of Revenue, (iii) of Collectors, (iv) of Deputy Collectors, (v) of Sub-Deputy Collectors, and (vi) of Assistant Collectors who are covenanted servants employed, during the first years of their service, in assisting the Collector and so learning the work of the Revenue Department.

Changes in the Sadr Dewani and Nizamat Adalats.

72. The Sadr Dewani and Nizamat Adalats continued to be presided over by the Governor General and Council until 1801, when they found that the duties of these courts involved more time than could conveniently be spared. It was accordingly decided in that year to place the chief civil and criminal jurisdiction in the hands of a Court of Justice, over which were to preside three Judges, of whom the Chief Judge was to be one of the Members of the Supreme Council and the other two selected members of the Covenanted Civil Service.

The Sadr Court remained the court of final appeal in this Presidency without any radical modifications until it was united with the Supreme Court in 1862, and both together were amalgamated into the present High Court. The Sadr Court was latterly composed of five or six covenanted civilians.

Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court was established by the Letters Patent which the King was empowered in the Regulating Act to grant, and was an entirely separate institution. It was governed by the English law and presided over by three Judges, who were Barristers-at-Law, appointed by the Crown, of whom the chief was styled Chief Justice. Its jurisdiction was confined to the limits of the city of Calcutta between the Hooghly and the Maharatta Ditch, and to the determination of all serious criminal cases in which European British subjects were accused and committed for trial.

Establishment of the High Court.

On the 14th May 1862, the High Court of Judicature in Bengal was established by Letters Patent, the Sadr and Supreme Courts being abolished at the same time by Act 24 & 25 Vict., Cap. 104. The combined powers and authorities of the abolished courts, and their jurisdiction, both over the Provinces and the Presidency town, were vested in this court.

Provincial Courts of Appeal and Courts of Circuit.

73. The Provincial Courts were abolished by Lord William Bentinck, who stigmatised them "as resting-places for those members of the Service who were deemed unfit for higher responsibilities," and Regulation V of 1831 made wholly new provisions for the administration of civil justice. The powers of the Courts of Circuit were transferred to the newly-created Commissioners in 1829, and the authority of the Judges of the Provincial Courts in their capacity of Judges of Circuit ceased. The Commissioners were thus placed in charge of both the finance and the criminal justice of their divisions.

Judge-Magistrates. Civil Judges vested with Sessions powers, 1831-1835.

74. This arrangement, however, did not work well, and, after a very few years, the Governor General exercised his right of transferring the judicial powers of the Commissioner to the Civil Judges. By section 2, Regulation VII of 1831, he was empowered to invest, by an order in Council, the Zilla or City Judges with full powers to conduct the duties of the Sessions. In 1835 it was made competent to the Government "to transfer any part or the whole of the duties connected with criminal justice from any Commissioner of Circuit to any Sessions Judge, and to define the powers which shall be exercised by each respectively." The Commissioners, however, still continued to exercise judicial functions, but Regulation VII of 1831 and Act III of 1835 were both repealed by Act VIII of 1868, and, under the present law, the Commissioners have no such powers. The powers and duties of Sessions Judges are now regulated by the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which also provides for the appointment of Additional or Joint Sessions Judges and Assistant Sessions Judges.

Civil Judges divested of Magisterial powers. Union of Magistrate and Collector, 1831.

The Judges, under Lord William Bentinck's arrangement, held a jail delivery every month. But the Judges were also Magistrates, and the inconvenience of the same class of officers exercising the powers of committing Magistrates and Sessions Judges, the latter being unable to try cases committed by themselves in the former capacity, caused considerable obstruction; moreover the united work of Sessions and of the Civil Court left them little leisure for the performance of magisterial duties. To remedy these difficulties, the functions of Magistrate were transferred to the Collector in 1831.

Separation of the offices of Magistrate and Collector.

This union of the duties lasted, however, only for a short while. A good deal of work was just at that time thrown on the Collectors, owing to the resumption proceedings then undertaken, and consequently the duties of the Magistrate's office were neglected. In 1837, therefore, Lord Auckland obtained the sanction of the Court of Directors to separate the two offices, and this was gradually carried out within the next eight years.

Re-union of the offices of Magistrate and Collector.

The pay of the Magistrates was fixed on a lower scale than that of the Collectors, and the office soon fell into the hands of young and inexperienced officers, the effect of which on the administration of justice was far from satisfactory. In 1859, therefore, after a great deal of deliberation and discussion, the two offices of Collector and Magistrate were again united in the same person. This arrangement has continued up to the present date. The powers and duties of the Magistrate of the district and of other Magistrates are now regulated by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Creation of the present grade of Joint Magistrates.

When the offices of Magistrate and Collector were united under Lord William Bentinck's administration (1831), it was soon found that the Collector-Magistrate was unable to cope with the judicial portion of his duties, and, accordingly, Joint Magistrates and Deputy Collectors and Head Assistants were appointed in order to render more efficient aid than could be given by Assistants vested with such powers as could be conferred under the Regulations then in force. Head Assistants were made Joint Magistrates of the second grade by a Government Order of the 16th August 1833. When the offices of Collector and Magistrate were separated in 1837, the first-grade Joint Magistrates became Magistrates, but, when the offices were again united in 1859, they again became Joint Magistrates. The Code of Criminal Procedure makes no mention of Joint Magistrates, and, save as indicating the two grades of covenanted servants with reference to the salaries drawn by those who are placed therein, the term has now no real significance.

The Bengal Police Act.

75. In 1861, shortly after the reunion of the offices of Collector and Magistrate, the police was established as a separate Department under the Magistrate; and District Superintendents and Assistant Superindentents of Police were appointed to discipline the force. An Inspector General and Deputy Inspectors General were placed at the head of the police to supervise the Department.

Native Judicial officers. Native Civil Judges.

76. The law relating to native judicial officers, in common with the other portions of the law of the judiciary system, underwent important changes in 1831. Previously to this, there were practically only two classes of Native Judges, *viz.*, the Munsifs, originally called Commissioners, who had been appointed by Lord Cornwallis to relieve the pressure on European Judges, and the Sadr Amins who had been created in 1803, with a jurisdiction extending to suits of Rs. 100. In 1821, after some intermediate enlargement of the powers of both classes, the Munsifs were empowered to try cases up to the value of Rs. 150, and the Sadr Amins to take cognizance of suits to the amount of Rs. 500. In 1827 the authority of the latter was doubled. Lord Bentinck now established a superior class of judicial officers, known as Principal Sadr Amins, with enlarged powers and higher salaries. They were subsequently authorized to try cases involving property to any amount, and an appeal lay from them to the European Judges. The Small Cause Courts were established in Bengal by Sir John Peter Grant under Act XLII of 1860. In 1867, the Judges of the Small Cause Courts, Principal Sadr Amins and Munsifs were amalgamated into one service. Small Cause Court Judges and Principal Sadr Amins are now called Subordinate Judges, and are eligible alike for Small Cause Court work or for the work of the ordinary civil court.

Establishment of the Subordinate Executive Service.

The machinery for the administration of justice having been organised and put on a satisfactory basis, the question of employing Indians in the administration of criminal justice soon came to the fore. But it was not till 1843 that an Act was passed empowering the Government to appoint in any district one or more uncovenanted Deputy Magistrates with or without police powers, as might be determined.

Assam Proper, i.e., the five Districts of Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. Early history.

77. The first authentic account we have of the inhabitants of Assam Proper is from the writings of a Chinese traveller, Hiuen Tsiang, who visited the country in 640 A.D., and from certain copper plates. Before that, our knowledge of the country consists of some fragmentary, and by no means authentic, references in the Purans, Tantras and the Mahabharat. These references show that, although the bulk of the inhabitants were non-Aryans, the colonization and conquest of parts of the country by Aryan settlers had begun at an early date, and that, before the seventh century A.D., the inhabitants had attained considerable power and a fair degree of civilization. Between these legendary notices and the beginnings of what we may call authentic history there is a considerable gap, during which the Hindu religion seems to have existed in various parts of the country, whether professed by pure Aryans, or mixed communities, or by the converted non-Aryans. When Hiuen Tsiang visited the country, a prince, named Kumar Bhaskara Barman, sat on the throne. "He is," says the traveller, "of the Brahman caste. From the time this family seized the land and assumed the government, there have elapsed a thousand generations. The king is fond of learning and the people are so likewise, in imitation of him. Men of high talent from distant regions, seeking after office, visit his dominions. Though he has no faith in Buddha, yet he much respects Sramanas of learning." The State religion he found to be Hinduism: "They adore and sacrifice to the Devas and have no faith in Buddha." The country is described by him as rich and regularly cultivated, the climate as soft and temperate, and the people, who were of small stature and of dark yellow complexions, as honest and simple.*

78. The visit of Hiuen Tsiang is followed by a period of darkness, which is only occasionally redeemed by the discovery of several inscribed copper plates. They show that the country was ruled for some time by the dynasty of Sala Stambha, "a great chief of the Mlechchhas," who probably subverted the dynasty of Bhaskara Barman not many years after Hiuen Tsiang's visit, then by the dynasty of Pralambha, who may be assumed to have risen to power in 800 A.D. and to have ruled the country for 200 years, and, lastly, by the Pal kings, who rose to power about 1000 A.D. The next dynasty, that we hear of, is that of Khyán or Khen kings, whose last representative, Nilambar, was overthrown by Husain Shah in 1498 A.D.

The Ahoms.

79. It was not, however, till the Ahoms (whose priests and leading families possessed *Buranjis*, or histories, which were periodically brought up to date) came to Assam in 1228 A.D., that we obtain anything like a connected history of the country. The Ahoms were Shans, from the ancient Shan kingdom of Pong, whose capital, Mogaung, still exists in the upper portion of the valley of the Irrawaddy. A quarrel as to the right of succession to the throne is said to have led to the secession of Sukápha, one of the rival claimants, who, after wandering about the hilly country of the Patkoi mountains for thirteen years, entered Assam with a small following. The Ahoms rapidly subjugated the Morans and Borahis, people of the Bodo race, who inhabited the neighbouring country and only

* Beal's Buddhist Records of the Western World, Volume II, page 195.

met with serious opposition from the Koches and the Chutias. By the middle of the seventh century, however, these two races, owing partly to the Muhammadan invasions of the country, and chiefly to the superiority of the Ahoms, had lost all their hold over the country, and the Ahoms were left masters of the position. In 1695, Rudra Sing, the greatest of the Ahom kings, ascended the throne, and his dominions comprised the whole of the Brahmaputra Valley, so far as it was inhabited, except a strip of submontane country claimed by the Bhutias. In the following century, the dynasty began to decay, being torn by internal dissension, and hard pressed by invaders from without.

First appearance of the English in Assam.

80. The acquaintance of the British with Assam dates from the year 1792, when Captain Walsh was sent with a detachment of sepoys to restore Raja Gauri Nath Singh, who had been dispossessed by a combination between the Koch Raja of Darrang and a sect of religious fanatics called Maomarias. Captain Walsh having successfully achieved his purpose, was recalled in 1794, in accordance with the policy of non-intervention then dominant in Calcutta. He left anarchy behind him in Assam. The Ahom Rajas had become mere puppets in the hands of rival Ministers, and no party in the State was strong enough to stand without foreign help. The Burmese were called in as arbitrators, and, having once established themselves in Assam, ruled the natives with a rod of iron. Whole districts are known to have been depopulated by their barbarities and exactions. At length in 1824, war was declared between the British and the Burmese. As an incident in the war, Assam was occupied by the British and was finally ceded to them by the treaty of Yendaboo on the 24th February 1826.

Commencement of British rule.

81. For some time it was doubtful whether the East India Company would retain the province in their hands or not, but it was finally decided to administer the country as a British province. The management was entrusted to Mr. Scott, the Commissioner of North-East Rangpur, Captain White being appointed in 1827 to assist him in Lower Assam, and Captain Neufville in 1828 to have charge under him of Upper Assam. The Maomarias, who had contributed so largely to the downfall of the Ahom power, and whose country (known as Matak) was the present district of Dibrugarh, south of the Brahmaputra, were left under their own ruler, styled the Borsenapati, who, in May 1826, executed an agreement of allegiance to the British Government. And the Khamti chief of Sadiya, called the Sadiya-khoa, was confirmed on the 15th of the same month as the Company's feudatory in possession of that district.

Disposal of Civil and Criminal work.

82. At first, the ordinary civil and criminal duties were performed by councils of local gentry, designated *panchayats*, of which there were some half a dozen. More heinous cases were tried, with the assistance of a *panchayat*, by the Commissioner's assistants, who also disposed of appeals from the *panchayats*, and from whose decisions, both appellate and original, a further appeal lay to the Commissioner himself. In regard to the revenue administration, it was thought inadvisable to make any radical change until the ultimate destiny of the country had been settled. The only important alteration adopted was the imposition of a poll-tax in lieu of the old liability to personal service for three or four months in the year.

Purandar Singh made Raja in Upper Assam.

83. Meanwhile the question of restoring the other parts of the Brahmaputra Valley to native rule continued to be discussed, and, in 1833, the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, north of the Brahmaputra (*i.e.*, practically the whole of Upper Assam) were placed under the administration of Raja Purandar Singh, who executed a treaty binding himself to administer the country upon the principles of justice established in their territories by the East India Company, to act according to the advice of the Political Agent stationed in his principality, and to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 50,000.

Legal position of the four districts Kamrup, etc. Assam Code.

84. Thus, of Assam Proper there remained in the hands of the East India Company in 1833 only the three districts, Kamrup, Nowgong, and Darrang. The legal position of these districts as also of Goalpara (*vide post*) was defined by Act II of 1835, which placed all functionaries employed in them under the control and superintendence of the Sadr Court in civil and criminal cases, and of the Bengal Board of Revenue in revenue matters; and further declared that the superintendence of these authorities should be exercised in conformity with such instructions as might be issued by the Government of Bengal. When the semi-independent tracts in Upper Assam were resumed a few years later, the provisions of this Act were extended to them also. In 1837, a set of rules, known as the Assam Code, was drawn up for the regulation of procedure in civil and criminal cases and made applicable not only to Assam proper, but also to Goalpara. These rules consisted of extracts from the Bengal Regulations of all that was considered at that time suitable to the circumstances of, and necessary for the proper administration of, Assam. They declared what Courts, civil and criminal, should be established, and the mode of appointing officers thereto; they declared the jurisdiction of these Courts and provided for appeals; they provided

for the appointment of vakils and like matters, and they established in each district a summary suit court, to be presided over generally by the Assistant in charge of the district (now called the Deputy Commissioner) in his capacity of Collector. In all cases not specially provided for in the rules, officers were directed to conform, as nearly as the circumstances of the province would permit, to the provisions of the Bengal Regulations, and in all doubtful matters of a judicial nature to refer for instructions to the Sadr Court. The Police Law of Assam was at the same time declared to be Regulation XX of 1817 with certain modifications.

85. In 1839, a few supplementary civil rules were issued by the Sadr Court with the sanction of Government, the effect of which was to give to junior Assistants (now called Assistant Commissioners) and Sub-Assistants (now called Extra Assistant Commissioners) a greater share in the judicial administration of the country than was allowed to them by the rules of 1837; and in the same year an officer, styled Deputy Commissioner (whose designation was in 1861 changed to that of Judicial Commissioner), was appointed to relieve the Commissioner of his duties as Civil and Sessions Judge.

Resumption of Upper Assam.

86. In October 1838, the territories, which had been placed in charge of Raja Purander Sing, were resumed by the Government of India, and were placed once more under the direct administration of British officers. They were annexed to Bengal and formed into two districts, *viz.*, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. The formal proclamation giving effect to these arrangements was issued in 1839. Another proclamation was issued in 1842, annexing the Matak country, the Bor Senapati having died in 1839, and his son having refused to accept the management of the country on the terms offered to him. Sadiya, the territory of the Khamti chief, which in 1839 had been the scene of a rising of the Khamtis, who treacherously attacked that station and killed the Political Agent, Colonel White, was by the same proclamation incorporated with the rest of the province. Both tracts were added to the Lakhimpur district, the headquarters of which were transferred to Dibrugarh in the Matak country. From this time, the Principal Assistant there, or, as we should call him, the Deputy Commissioner, generally has performed the duties of Political Agent, with the help, since 1882, of an Assistant Political Officer stationed at Sadiya. Thus, from 1842, the whole of Assam Proper was under the same system of administration, save that in Lakhimpur, including Matak and Sadiya. The Panchayat Courts were, for special reasons, maintained, to which persons of rank and influence in the district were appointed, without much regard to their judicial qualifications. This special panchayat system was abolished in 1860.

Extension of general laws to Assam.

87. In that year, Act VIII of 1859 (the Civil Procedure Code) and the Limitation Act (Act XIV of 1859) were extended to the whole of Assam Proper and to Goalpara. In 1861, the Criminal Procedure Code of that year was extended to the Province, and in 1862 the Police Act (Act V of 1861). In 1862 also, the Penal Code came into force in the Province without special extension. These measures superseded the Assam Code of 1837 which had been revised in 1847, but there was still great uncertainty as to the operation of the other laws in force in Bengal, the general opinion of Assam officers being that they were not actually in force, but needed only to be followed in the spirit "as far as applicable." A very similar state of affairs prevailed in Cachar, but not in Sylhet, which at this time was regarded as an integral part of Bengal and, as such, was subject to all its laws and regulations.

88. Since about 1870, all legislative enactments have been provided with a clause showing precisely how and where they are to operate. The difficulty with respect to the earlier enactments, which did not contain these particulars, was met in 1874 by the passing of two Acts—the Scheduled Districts Act, XIV of 1874, and the Laws Local Extent Act, XV of 1874. The whole of Assam, including Sylhet, was classed as a "Scheduled" district, and all doubts as to what laws are, and what laws are not, in force, have now been removed by a series of notifications under the Scheduled Districts Act. The effect of these notifications has been to place the plains of Assam in much the same legal position as other parts of India.

89. The Eastern Duars in Goalpara are also administered, in civil matters, in accordance with rules under the Scheduled Districts Act, in lieu of the Civil Procedure Code, which is not in force there.

Staff of Officer in the Brahmaputra Valley.

90. In 1853, the officers, appointed to carry on the administration of the Brahmaputra Valley, were the Commissioner, who was assisted by a Deputy Commissioner, both stationed at Gauhati, a principal or senior Assistant in charge of each of the six districts into which the valley was divided, three junior Assistants and eight sub-Assistants. There was also a separate Civil Judicial establishment consisting of a Principal Sadr Amin,

six Sadr Amins, and seventeen Munsifs. Four of the sub-Assistants were stationed at the outlying subdivisions of Barpeta, Tezpur, North Lakhimpur and Golaghat. The principal Assistants and two of the three junior Assistants were military officers. In 1861, the designations of the officers serving under the Commissioner were changed; the Deputy Commissioner, whose powers were those of a District and Sessions Judge, was henceforth known as the Judicial Commissioner; the principal Assistants became Deputy Commissioners; the junior Assistants, Assistant Commissioners; and the sub-Assistants, Extra Assistant Commissioners. The separate establishment of Sadr Amins and Munsifs was abolished in 1872, when some of these officers were made Extra Assistant Commissioners, and the officers of the ordinary district staff were invested with civil powers; the Deputy Commissioners became Sub-Judges, and the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners were invested with the powers of a Munsif. This arrangement is substantially that which now exists.

Language of the Courts.

91. For more than ten years after its annexation, Assamese was the language of the courts in the Brahmaputra Valley proper, after which it was superseded by Bengali which was also made the medium of instructions in schools. The natives protested loudly and often, but for a long time without any result It was not until Sir George Campbell became the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal that Assamese was restored to the position which it had lost.

Goalpara. Early History.

92. The Goalpara district consists of two very distinct portions: the permanently-settled part, comprising the three thanas of Goalpara, Dhubri and Karaibari; and the temporarily-settled part, called the Eastern Duars. The first tract, including the Garo Hills, was originally administered from Rangpur, and, as such, formed part of the province of Bengal which, by the Moghul Emperor's *farman* of the 12th August 1765, was transferred to the East India Company. Under the provisions of Regulation X of 1822, it was cut off from Rangpur, and formed into a separate district with head quarters at Goalpara. When David Scott was entrusted with the administration of the tract taken from the Burmese, he was already in charge of Goalpara, and from that time this district was treated as part of the ordinary jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Assam.

Regulation X of 1822.

Transfer to Koch Behar.

93. In 1866, the Eastern Duars, a thinly-populated but extensive tract along the base of the Himalayas, north of permanently-settled Goalpara, which had previously been under the rule of the Deb Raj of Bhutan, was annexed by the British Government on the conclusion of the Bhutan War. In 1867, when the Bengal Commissionership of Koch Behar was formed, the Eastern Duars were joined to Goalpara and the entire district was included in that Commissionership, the Commissioner having the powers of a Civil and Sessions Judge within his jurisdiction. In the following year the judicial administration was restored to the Judicial Commissioner of Assam, but the executive control remained with the Commissioner of Koch Behar. In 1869, the Garo Hills were formed into a separate district by Act XXII of that year, which repealed Regulation X of 1822, but still exempted the hills from the operation of the General Regulations. In the same year the Eastern Duars were similarly deregulationized by Act XVI of 1869.

Retransfer to Assam.

Finally, when the Chief Commissionership of Assam was formed in February 1874, the district of Goalpara and the Eastern Duars and the district of the Garo Hills were retransferred to Assam. When the daily mail steamer service was inaugurated a few years later, the headquarters of the Goalpara district were removed to Dhubri, which was made the steamer terminus.

94. The early history of Cachar, or Hirambo, is extremely obscure. It is, however certain that the last native king of that district was the descendant of a line of princes who came originally from the Assam Valley. Their deserted capital, Dimapur, on the Dhansiri river, beneath the Angami Naga Hills, contains some very striking monuments, and a number of large and fine tanks. From this site, now buried in dense jungle, the Kachari kings were forced, by the aggressions of the Ahoms and of the Angami Nagas on the south, to remove into the interior of the hills, and took up their abode at Maibong, on the Mahur river. While settled there, about the beginning or middle of the seventeenth century, the Kachari king married a daughter of the Tippera Raja, and received the valley of Cachar as her dowry. And some time between 1700 and 1750 the court was transferred from the hills, across the Barail, to Khaspur, on the Madhura river in the plains. Here the Kachari rulers found themselves in presence of an already settled population of Hindus and Musalmans from Sylhet, who had overflowed from that district into the valley. The process of Hinduisation had probably already commenced at Maibong, at least among the royal family, and in 1790 the formal act of conversion took place, the Raja, Krishna Chandra, and his brother, Govinda Chandra, entering the body of a copper image of a cow, and emerging therefrom as Hindus and Kshatriyas.

Annexation of Cachar.

95. In the beginning of the present century the valley of Cachar became the scene of a struggle for supremacy between the Manipuri brothers, Marjit, Chaurjit and Gambhir Singh, who had been driven from their own country by the Burmese. Krishna Chandra had died in 1813, and Govinda Chandra succeeded him. The Manipuri invaders speedily overran the country, and in 1823 Marjit held the Hailakandi Valley and Gambhir Singh the rest of South Cachar. The Burmese were then in Assam, and, as lords of Manipur, which they had conquered from Marjit in 1819, threatened to annex Cachar. This the British Government, seeing the danger it would cause to Sylhet, decided to prevent. Negotiations were first entered into with the Manipuri brothers, but fell through. The British then turned to Govind Chandra, expelled the Burmese, and seated him once more upon the throne. In return for this assistance, he was required to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 10,000. Govinda Chandra's reign after his restoration was very short; he was assassinated in 1830, and, in the absence of natural heirs, his territory lapsed to the British under the terms of an agreement executed in 1826. The district was formally annexed by proclamation on August 14th, 1832.

System of Government introduced.

96. On the annexation of Cachar, it was formed into a district with headquarters at Silchar, and was placed in charge of a Superintendent, who was subordinate to the Commissioner of Assam. In 1836 it was transferred to the Dacca Division, and the title of the officer in charge was subsequently changed to Deputy Commissioner. By Act V of 1835, Cachar, like the Brahmaputra Valley, was placed under the jurisdiction of the Sadr Court of Bengal in civil and criminal matters, and under that of the Board of Revenue in respect of revenue administration. Unlike Assam Proper, however, it never had any special code of administrative rules drawn up for it; the officers in charge applied "the spirit of the Regulations" in dealing with judicial matters. The Civil Procedure Code was extended to the district in 1859; in 1862 the Criminal Procedure Code was extended, and the Penal Code came into force.

Since Cachar became a part of British territory, the only important events that have marked its history have been the Lushai raids of 1849 and subsequent years, and the mutiny of 1857, in the course of which the mutineers of Chittagong were met in Cachar, and were defeated and dispersed by the Sylhet Light Infantry.

Garo Hills. Introduction of British rule in the Garo Hills.

97. We have seen that the Garo Hills were treated as part of Goalpara during the first few years of British rule. At this time the Garos were a terror to the people of the plains. The chiefs, or zamindars of the marches, were expected to restrain their incursions, but it was soon found that their tyranny and exactions were the chief cause of the raids. In 1816 Mr. David Scott was deputed to report on the best means of preserving the peace of the frontier. He proposed to separate all the tributary Garos (from whom, and from the independent villages beyond, the raids proceeded) from the zamindars' control, and take them under Government management, compensating the zamindars for any loss they might show they had sustained; to appoint the chiefs of the villages, thus brought under the British jurisdiction, to be responsible for the peace and the collection of revenue; and to bring the submontane *hâts* under Government control, all duties being abolished there, except upon independent Garos frequenting them. These proposals were approved by Government, and afterwards embodied in Regulation X of 1822, which gave Mr. Scott, who was appointed Special Commissioner, authority to extend British administration over other Garo communities which might be still independent, and exempted the whole tract (together with the district of Goalpara) from the operation of the general Regulations. For many years a policy of non-interference with the hillmen was followed, but without much success. The tributary Garos were most irregular in paying the promised tribute, and those of the interior committed raids, which were followed either by expeditions or by a blockade of the submontane marts. These measures having proved ineffectual, it was decided to appoint an officer in charge of the hills. In 1869, an Act (Act XXII) was passed, which enabled the Lieutenant-Governor to make special provision for their administration: and they were formed into a district with headquarters at Tura. This step was rewarded with immediate success, so far as the villages within the administered area were concerned, but some of the more remote villages still remained uncontrolled. In 1871 and 1872 the latter gave some trouble by attacking surveyors and raiding some protected Garo villages. It was, therefore, decided to bring them also under subjection. This was done without any difficulty in the cold season of 1872-73, and peaceful administration was established throughout the district.

Regulation X of 1822.

Establishment of a Deputy Commissionership within the hills.

The Khasi Hills.

98. The Khasi Hills were first brought into direct relations with the British Government in 1826, after the conquest of Assam. The Khasis were a group of small independent communities of the same race as the hillmen of Jaintia, who occupied the tract of country between the Jaintia Hills on the east and the Garo Hills on the west.

As soon as the Brahmaputra Valley had passed under British rule, it became an object with Mr. Scott to establish direct communication between it and the valley of the Surma; and in 1827 he had an interview at Nungklow with Tirat Singh, the Siem of that place, and other Khasi chiefs, at which they unanimously gave their consent to the construction of a road from Rani, *vid* Nungklow, to the Surma Valley. The project was at once put in hand; a track was cleared, and bungalows were erected at Nungklow. In 1829, however, alarmed by the foolish boast of a Bengali peon belonging to the survey party, who were making the road, the Khasis made an attack upon the party, and Lieutenants Burlton and Bedingfield, with about 50 or 60 Indians, were massacred. This event was followed by a general confederacy of most of the neighbouring chiefs to resist the British, and led to a long and harassing war, in which troops from Assam and Sylhet co-operated. Eventually, Tirat Singh submitted in 1833, and a general pacification followed almost immediately. Since that date the establishment of a British officer with an adequate military force in the midst of the people at Cherrapunji, which was abandoned in 1866 for Shillong, has sufficed to maintain the most absolute tranquillity.

Description of Khasi States.

The greater part of the Khasi Hills consists of the territories of native chiefs in subsidiary alliance with the British Government; only a few scattered villages have remained British since 1833, or have been ceded since then under special circumstances The people govern themselves through their elected rulers, who are bound to follow the advice of their darbars. They pay no revenue to the British Government, but the Siems are required on investiture to confirm the cession to the paramount power of the mines and minerals, elephants, forests and other natural products of their States, on condition of receiving half the profits accruing from these sources. All petty crime, committed by their subjects, is dealt with by the chiefs and their darbars, only heinous offences, or in those cases in which subjects of different States are concerned, being tried by the district authorities. The people are extremely well-to-do, and make much money by trade with the plains in the valuable staples which the hills produce.

The Jaintia Hills.

99. During the unsettled condition which prevailed for some time after the Burmese war, the Raja of Jaintia encroached considerably on the southern border of the Nowgong district; and between 1830 and 1832 he was repeatedly called upon to remove an outpost which he had established without authority at Chappar Mukh, at the confluence of the Kopili and Doyang rivers. He evaded compliance, but, before any coercive measures had been taken, a fresh cause of dispute arose. In 1832 the Raja of Gobha in the west of Nowgong, one of the petty chieftains dependent on Jaintia, acting under the orders of his suzerain, seized four British subjects, three of whom were afterwards immolated at the shrine of the goddess Kali. The fourth escaped and gave information of the occurrence At this juncture Raja Ramsingh died, and was succeeded by his nephew Rajendra Singh. For two years the Government endeavoured to induce him to give up the perpetrators of the outrage, but the young Raja was obdurate, and at last, failing to obtain satisfaction, Government resolved to dispossess him of his territory in the plains. The Jaintia parganas were consequently annexed in 1835, upon which the Raja professed himself to be unwilling to retain the hilly portion of his principality, which thus lapsed to the British Government. It was placed under the Political Officer of the Khasi Hills, and the direct management was vested in an Assistant, who was stationed at Jowai. The hillmen, or Syntengs, were interfered with as little as possible. No revenue was demanded from them, and, although heinous offences were tried by the Political Agent or his Assistant, petty cases, both civil and criminal, were dealt with by the local headmen, of whom there were 19 in all, *viz.*, 15 Dollois and 4 Sardars. Act VI of 1835 was passed to provide for the judicial control of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

For the first twenty years of the British occupation the system of administration was left unchanged, but about 1850 some attempt was made to administer the country by the establishment of a thana at Jowai, and in 1860 it was decided to impose a house-tax. A few months later, the hillmen broke out in rebellion, but a large force of troops was at hand, and, before the revolt could make any head, it was stamped out. After this rising, measures were taken for the improvement of the administration. The powers of the dollois were increased, but they were made liable to dismissal for misconduct, and were required to report all offences to the police. The house-tax was, however, followed by the income-tax, which was imposed in 1860-61. Only 310 persons in the Jaintia Hills were brought upon the assessment list, and the total demand was less than Rs. 1,300. The discontent, which this new impost engendered, following closely on the imposition of the house-tax, led to a fresh outbreak in January 1862. Troops were then gradually brought into the hills, and it was not till November 1863 that the last of the insurgents surrendered. It

was then decided that the house-tax should be retained, but in other respects every thing possible was done to make the Syntengs contented with the British rule. Roads were constructed, schools were opened, and the interference of the regular police was reduced to a minimum; the people were given the right to elect their dollois and to form *panchayats* for the trial of civil and criminal cases; and, lastly, the European officer stationed at Jowai was required to qualify in the Khasi language, and to visit every village in his jurisdiction at least once a year.

North Cachar.

100. North Cachar is a tract of thinly-peopled, low, undulating hills, divided from the valley of the Barak by the range of the Barail, and interposed between the Jaintia and the Naga Hills. When the Cachar district was under the native rule, during the last years of the reign of Govinda Chandra, this portion of it was the scene of a struggle between the prince and one of his officers, Kacha Din, who rebelled and attempted to establish an independent government in the hills. He was captured and put to death, but his son Tularam immediately revived the rebellion, and successfully resisted all attempts to reduce him. In 1829, Mr. Scott induced Govinda Chandra to assign to Tularam a tract of country in the hills, and bind himself not to molest him within these limits. After the assassination of the Raja of Cachar, Tularam laid claim to the vacant *raj* but failed to establish his title. He was, however, confirmed in the possession of the greater part of the tract assigned to him by Govinda Chandra, which was bounded on the south by the Mahur river and the Naga Hills, on the west by the Dayang, on the east by the Dhansiri, and on the north by the Jamuna and the Dayang. He agreed to give a tribute of 4 elephants' tusks, each weighing seventy pounds, but this was afterwards commuted to a money payment of Rs. 490. On the other hand, he was granted for life a pension of Rs. 50 per month. He was not given the title of Raja, nor was he permitted to deal with criminal matters, other than those of a trivial nature; all serious offences were tried by the officer in charge of the Nowgong district. Tularam died in 1850. His sons held the country for two and a half years more. In 1854 the tract was resumed by the British Government, the surving members of Tularam's family receiving pensions, and was added to the North Cachar subdivision, the headquarters of which were then at Asalu, and which since 1839 had been an appanage of the Nowgong district. When the Naga Hills district was constituted in 1866, this subdivision was closed, and the territory included in it was distributed amongst the surrounding districts.

Gradual annexation of the Naga Hills.

101. The hilly tract inhabited by the various tribes known to us collectively as Nagas had never been subjugated by the Ahoms, and it was no part of the British policy to absorb it. Those on the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur frontier, who were accustomed to trade in the plains, were easily brought to book for any misdemeanours they might commit by the simple expedient of closing the passes against them.

The more turbulent Angamis were, however, less amenable. For some years it was the practice to look to Tularam and the Raja of Manipur to exact reparation for raids committed by them. This policy proving a failure, it was abandoned in favour of repression by British troops; and between the years 1835 and 1851, ten military expeditions were led into the hills. After the expedition of 1851, when severe punishment was meted out to the offending hillmen, it was decided to try the combined effect of non-interference in their internal quarrels, of encouraging trade when they behaved well, and of shutting them out from the neighbouring markets when they gave trouble. The first year after the inauguration of this policy witnessed twenty-two raids, in which 178 persons were killed, wounded or carried off. In 1854, as already stated, an officer was stationed at Asalu, and a line of outposts was established, but they proved of very little use, and raids continued to be of frequent occurrence.

Formation of the Naga Hills District.

102. At last, in 1866, it was resolved to take possession of the Angami country and reclaim its inhabitants from habits of lawlessness to those of order and civilization. A new district was, therefore, formed with its headquarters at Samaguting, Asalu being abolished as a subdivision, and North Cachar being divided between the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, South Cachar, and Nowgong, that portion lying to the west of the Dhansiri and the country on both banks of the Dayang forming, with the Angami Naga Hills, the new district. In 1878, however, this place was abandoned in favour of Kohima.

Campaign against the Nagas.

103. After the formation of the new district, the Angamis gave no trouble until 1877, when they attacked a Kacha Naga village. The people of the offending village refused to surrender the raiders, and their village was, therefore, burnt. In October 1878, a more serious outbreak occurred. Mr. Damant, the Political Officer, was shot as he was attempting to enter the village of Khonoma, and some of his escort were also killed or wounded. The Angamis then rose in a body and, advancing against Kohima, invested it for eleven days. The garrison was reduced to great straits for want of food

and water, but Colonel (afterwards Sir James) Johnstone arrived in the nick of time with a force of 2,000 troops, supplied to him by the Raja of Manipur, and raised the siege. A campaign against the Angamis ensued, in the course of which every one of the thirteen villages which had entered into the hostile coalition was either occupied or destroyed. They then submitted and agreed to pay revenue, to supply labour when required, and to appoint for each village a headman, who should be responsible for good order and for carrying out the wishes of the Government.

Policy adopted towards the Nagas.

104. After the close of this, the twelfth and last, expedition, the question of the policy to be adopted in dealing with the Nagas was submitted by the Chief Commissioner to the Government of India, who in February 1881 finally decided that the position at Kohima should be retained, that a regiment should be permanently stationed in the hills, and that the district should be administered as a British territory. Since that date the history of the district has been one of progressive establishment of peace and good order, and the quiet submission of the Nagas to British rule.

Wokha subdivision.

105. The object of the Government of India in establishing a new district in 1866 was, not to extend the British rule into the interior, but to protect the low land from the incursions of the Nagas. Once, however, a footing had been obtained in the hills, further territorial expansion became almost inevitable. In 1875 the country of the Lhota Nagas, who, on several occasions, had attacked survey parties, was annexed, and a British officer was posted at Wokha. This tract has been in charge of a tahsildar since 1889, when the Mokokchang subdivision was formed, as the Lhotas had by that time become so amenable to authority that it was considered unnecessary any longer to retain a European officer in their midst.

Mokokchang subdivision.

106. The reasons for the formation of this subdivision were the difficulty of protecting the Aos from raids by trans-Dikhu tribes unless a garrison was permanently established in their midst, and the fact that the leading Ao villages had petitioned the Deputy Commissioner for their incorporation in British territory. The necessary measures were successfully carried out, and the tract in question is now known as the Mokokchang subdivision of the Naga Hills district. In 1898 the detached mass of mountains known as the Mikir and Rengma Hills, which formed the most northerly portion of the Naga Hills district as originally constituted, with the level tract separating it from the Naga Hills proper, and including the extensive Nambor forest, was transferred to the districts of Nowgong and Sibsagar. On the extension of the Assam-Bengal Railway through this area it became easier to administer it from the Assam Valley.

Re-establishment of the North Cachar subdivision.

107. At the close of the Naga war of 1879-80 Sir Steuart Bayley recommended, and the Government of India approved, the re-establishment of the subdivisional charge of North Cachar, where since 1866 no officer had been located, the hillmen being left, save for the rare cold-weather tours of the Deputy Commissioner, entirely to themselves. The subdivision was opened in December 1880, and placed in charge of an Assistant Superintendent of Police, who was stationed at Gunjong, in the centre of the tract, a point connected by easy hill paths with Nowgong to the north, Silchar to the south, and Jowai to the west. A bridle path to Kohima, *viâ* the Kachcha or Arung Naga country, was subsequently constructed.

In 1896, a great change was effected in the material conditions of the subdivision by the construction of the railway through the hills. The headquarters of the railway administration were fixed at Haflong on the summit of a hill round the foot of which the line runs in a loop, and the headquarters of the subdivision were transferred from Gunjong to this place in 1896.

The Lushai Hills.

108. From the earliest period of which we have any knowledge, the hills lying to the south of the Surma Valley were inhabited by various tribes known to the Bengalis by the generic name of Kuki. During the early years of the last century they were driven gradually northwards into the plains of Cachar by the Lushais, who made their appearance on this frontier about the year 1840. The Lushais committed their first raid in 1849, and the punitive expedition which followed was so successful that they gave no further troubles until 1868, when a series of outrages led to an abortive expedition, which in its turn was followed by further raids. In 1871-72 two columns marched through the hills and met with entire success. From that time forward no further breaches of the peace occurred on the Assam frontier. In 1889, however, a raid was made on the Chittagong border and a number of captives were taken. Their release being demanded and refused, troops again entered the country. The captives were rescued, and the chiefs, who were responsible for the outrage, were arrested. Previously to this raid the policy of the Government since 1872 had been to maintain a line of outposts connected by patrol paths, and, while cultivating as much as possible friendly intercourse with the chiefs, to abstain from interfering in their internal affairs. It was now

decided to put down raids once for all by establishing military outposts at Aijal and Changsil, in the northern portion of the hills, and at Lungleh, in the southern. Political Officers were posted at Aijal and Lungleh, and the Lushais appeared to have accepted the situation when, without any warning, those near Aijal rose in a body and murdered Captain Browne, the Political Officer, who was marching, practically unattended, from that place to Changsil. In less than two months, the outbreaks had been suppressed and the ringleaders arrested and deported. Early in 1892 there was an insurrection of the Eastern Lushais, but it was quelled without much trouble. From this time no further opposition was offered, and the people have now settled down quietly as peaceable and law-abiding British subjects.

In the course of the operation against the Eastern Lushais in 1892, the inconvenience resulting from the division of control over the Lushai country between the three Administrations of Assam, Bengal, and Burma had been found to be considerable, and after a lengthy discussion it was finally decided to transfer the Southern Lushai Hills, which had been previously controlled from Bengal, to Assam. The transfer was not actually effected till the 1st of April 1898, when the North and the South Lushai Hills were amalgamated as a district of the Assam Province, and placed in charge of an officer who is styled the Superintendent of the Lushai Hills. At the same time rules were framed introducing a suitable and simple system of administration, in which the internal management of the Lushai villages is left to the chiefs, subject to the general control of the Superintendent and his Assistants, in whom the administration of civil and criminal justice is vested. Since the formation of the district, satisfactory progress has been made in the development of communications and the civilisation and pacification of the Lushais.

Laws applicable to the hilly tracts.

109. We have seen before that the effect of the Scheduled Districts Act and the Laws Local Extent Act was to place the plains of Assam in much the same legal position as other parts of India. The inhabitants of the hilly tracts were, however, not yet suited for the elaborate legal rules laid down in the Procedure Codes and in several enactments of the same class, and they had to be governed in a simpler and more personal manner than those of the more civilised and longer settled districts. It was, therefore, provided by the Frontier Tracts Regulation, II of 1880, that the operation of unsuitable laws might be barred in all the hill districts, in the North Cachar subdivision, the Mikir Hills tract in Nowgong and the Dibrugarh frontier tract in Lakhimpur. By orders issued under this Regulation, the tracts in question have been excluded from the operation of the enactments relating to criminal procedure,* stamps, court-fees, registration and transfer of property; and a simpler system of administering justice in civil and criminal matters has been prescribed by rules framed under the Scheduled Districts Act. In these tracts the head of the Local Administration is the chief appellate authority in civil and criminal cases, and the High Court possesses no jurisdiction except in criminal cases against European British subjects; the Deputy Commissioner exercises the combined powers of Judge and District Magistrate, and the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners the powers of magistrates and munsifs. Petty cases, both civil and criminal, are dealt with by village tribunals, presided over by men chosen by the people themselves, whose procedure is free from all legal technicalities.

Formation of the Chief Commissionership of Assam.

110. By the year 1874 the province of Bengal had become far too unwieldy to be managed by one Government, and the inconvenience of governing Assam as an appanage of that province began to be recognised. Assam was remote and difficult of access, and few Lieutenant-Governors ever visited it. Its local conditions were so different from those which prevailed in Bengal, that the officers responsible for the government of that province had not the time, even if they had the inclination, to make themselves acquainted with them. "So great a province," declared Sir George Campbell, the then Lieutenant-Governor, "cannot be efficiently carried on by one man alone." He was strongly of opinion that the position of the Bengal Government should either be raised by amalgamating the Board of Revenue with it, or lowered by lopping off some of its more remote territories. The Government of India preferred the latter alternative, and by a Proclamation, dated the 6th of February 1874, the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, the Khasi and Jaintia, Naga and Garo Hills, and the district of Cachar were separated from the Government of Bengal, and formed into a Chief Commissionership. On the 12th of September of the same year, by another Proclamation and notification, Sylhet was incorporated in the new province. By Resolutions of the Government of India, dated the 12th May and 18th December 1874, the new Administration was provided with a separate staff of Deputy and Assistant Commissioners and other officers required to carry on the revenue and

* The Civil Procedure Code never was in force in the hill districts.

judicial business of the country. Since then the term "Assam," which had originally been applied to the tract of country ruled by the Ahoms, and was subsequently used with reference to the area under the control of the Commissioner of Assam, *i.e.*, the six districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, has been given a wider signification, and is now used as the designation of the whole territory which was included in the Chief Commissionership, including the Surma Valley, the hill districts and Manipur.

Improvements effected under the Chief Commissioner.

111. Since the separation of Assam from Bengal, each province has developed on its own lines. The subsequent history of the civil administration of Bengal has been traced in the foregoing pages. As for Assam, the creation of the Chief Commissionership was at once followed by a marked improvement in the administration of the province. A number of trained civilians were imported into the country. Every branch of the Administration was overhauled, and special enactments were drafted to provide for local needs. In the district of Sylhet, with a population of two millions, and a most difficult and complicated system of land tenures, four outlying subdivisions were created, *viz.*, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Maulvi Bazar, and Karimganj, and a separate officer at headquarters was told off to deal with the Jaintia parganas.

The Judge of the Brahmaputra Valley becomes Judge and Commissioner.

112. For some years the Chief Commissioner had no Commissioner to assist him, but the steady increase of work rendered it more and more difficult for him to perform efficiently his duties as head of the Administration and, at the same time, to exercise direct control over the proceedings of the District Officers Accordingly, in 1880, he was relieved of these duties in the districts of the Brahmaputra Valley by the Judicial Commissioner or, as he was now called, the Judge, of those districts, who was invested with the powers exercised by a Commissioner of a Division in Bengal.

Appointment of separate Judges.

113. In the course of time, the constant elaboration of the system of administration, coupled with the increase of work consequent on the growth of the tea gardens and of the immigrant population, made the two fold duties of the Judge-Commissioner too heavy for one man to perform, and in 1903 the appointment was split up and a separate officer was appointed as Judge. In the Surma Valley there is a District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet, who is also District and Sessions Judge of Cachar; the functions of the District Judge in the latter district were until recently performed by the Deputy Commissioner.

The Land and Revenue Regulation.

114. Up to the year 1886, Sylhet proper, as we have seen, was under the operation of the old Bengal Regulations and other enactments relating to land and revenue which were in force in that province. In the Jaintia Parganas and Cachar and also, though to a less extent, in Goalpara, the general tenor of these enactments was followed, but they were not treated as actually in force. In the Brahmaputra Valley, excluding Goalpara, the settlement rules of the Board of Revenue had been replaced by local rules; in other respects the spirit of the Bengal Regulations was followed, but only so far as the officers concerned considered them to be suitable to local conditions. The state of doubt and uncertainty arising from this state of affairs was removed by the enactment, in 1886, of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, which has been brought into force in all the plains districts of Assam and contains all the necessary provisions of the revenue law of Bengal, which it repeals so far as that portion of the province is concerned. It has not yet been introduced into the hill districts, where the requirements of the primitive inhabitants are amply provided for by a few simple executive instructions.

Creation of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

115. For nearly thirty years after the separation of the two provinces, the territorial jurisdiction of Bengal remained unaltered, except for the transfer of the South Lushai Hills to Assam in 1898. But as time went on, it began to be felt more and more that Bengal was still far too heavy a charge for a single Administration. The enormous area and territory included in the province, the growth of the population, the constantly increasing number and complexity of problems pressing for solution, the ever-growing importance of Calcutta, the second city in point of numbers in the Empire, the increasing congestion of business in the Bengal Secretariat, as evidenced by the vast growth of correspondence, the urgency of new administrative needs, the demands for progress in all directions, the important measures of administrative development which required constant attention,—all these made increasing calls upon the time and energy of the Lieutenant-Governor and made it absolutely necessary to grant him some relief. "It is beyond dispute," observed Lord Curzon in his speech at Dacca on the 18th February, 1904, "that Bengal must be relieved. No one Government and no one Administration can possibly devote to nearly 80 millions of people the personal supervision, care, and control which are the objects for which Local Governments exist. The interests of the people must suffer, and they do suffer . . . . . No other Local Government in India administers much more than half the number of people that

there are in Bengal, and there is nothing in the circumstances of Bengal which renders government easier or an exception more defensible here. On the contrary, the reverse is, if anything, the case."

The question of giving further relief to the Government of Bengal was raised first in 1892 in connection with the proposed transfer of the South Lushai country to Assam, and it was then proposed to transfer the district of Chittagong to the latter province, but this was eventually given up for various reasons. Four years later, the whole question of territorial redistribution in India on more comprehensive lines came up again, and it was then proposed, among other things, to transfer the Chittagong Division, Hill Tippera, Dacca and Mymensingh to Assam. The publication of these proposals raised a storm of opposition and an immense amount of public discussion, which went to show that the objections upon which the people of these parts laid the greatest stress were the loss of a Lieutenant-Governor, the deprivation of a Legislative Council, the removal of the jurisdiction of the Board of Revenue and possibly of the High Court. As a result of this discussion and the expression of public opinion, the idea of forming an Eastern Province, organised on the scale of a Lieutenant-Governorship with a Legislative Council and an independent revenue authority, and involving the transfer to Assam of a tract of country extensive enough to justify this larger project, was first mooted, and by a Proclamation dated the 1st of September 1905, issued by the Government of India, the tracts commonly known as the North and East Bengal, comprising the districts of the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Commissionerships, with the exception of Darjeeling, and the addition of Malda, were separated from Bengal and amalgamated with Assam. The whole of the tract was formed into a new Province, to be known as Eastern Bengal and Assam, and placed under a Lieutenant-Governor who is aided by a Legislative Council, but the supreme civil and criminal jurisdiction is still exercised by the High Court of Calcutta. At about the same time (*i.e.*, 29th of September 1906) an Act (Act VII of 1905) was passed which left intact the laws which were in force in the areas affected, while it created a Board of Revenue for the new province which secured for the most advanced districts, transferred from Bengal, an authority in revenue matters of precisely the same kind as that which they had hitherto possessed.

116. Prior to the creation of this province, the executive administration of the districts in Eastern Bengal was entrusted to a service recruited from the Indian and Statutory Civil Service subordinate to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, while the districts of Assam were managed by a mixed Commission consisting of members of the Covenanted Service and officers deputed from the Indian Army, under the control of the Chief Commissioner of Assam. In both portions of the province a Provincial and a Subordinate Executive Service assisted the District Officers.

117. In the new province, which is administered by a Lieutenant-Governor acting directly under the orders of the Government of India, both systems have been retained, and the general executive staff consists of (1) members of the Indian and Statutory Civil Service, (2) Military Officers, and (3) members of the Provincial and Subordinate Executive Services. Civil Service.

118. The sanctioned strength of the Assam Commission was 41 officers, to whom were open 20 superior posts (carrying each a salary exceeding Rs. 1,000 per mensem). To these were added, on the constitution of this province, 10 similar posts, making, with the 32 posts transferred from Bengal, a total of 62, while the strength of the Service was provisionally fixed at 124 officers, including those deputed for service under the Government of India.

The Covenanted Civil Service of this province consists, without any exception, of officers who have been selected by means of an open competition held in England. Among these there were at the end of the year 8 Indian gentlemen. The principal appointments, held by the members of this Service at present, are the Lieutenant-Governorship of Eastern Bengal and Assam, 2 Judgeships of the High Court, 2 Memberships of the Board of Revenue, 5 Commissionerships, the principial Secretariat appointments, the posts of Legal Remembrancer, Inspector General of Police, Inspector General of Registration, Commissioner of Excise, and Director of Land Records, the District and Sessions Judgeships (except two held by Statutory Civilians), the headships of districts (except 7 held by Military officers) and practically all the Joint Magistracies and Assistant Magistracies (designated Assistant Commissionerships in the Assam districts) in the interior. Under the existing arrangements, Civilians are called

upon at the end of the twelfth year of their service to choose between the Executive or Judicial Branch of the Service, and are posted to the one or to the other after due consideration of their wishes and of the public interests.

Statutory Civil Service.

119. Officers, who have been appointed in India without any examination under Statute 33 Vict., Cap. 3, are members of the Statutory Civil Service. Of these there were three in the province during the year. This Service will, in course of time, disappear, as no new appointments will be made under the Statute.

Military officers in the Civil Service.

120. Of the officers of the Indian Army in the old Assam Commission, who formed one-fourth of its total strength, there are only nine in the service at present. One Commissionership and eight headships of districts are open to them, but they are eligible for employment only in the districts formerly comprised in the Chief Commissionership of Assam. No more Military officers will be recruited for the province.

Provincial Civil Service.

121. The Provincial Civil Service, the great majority of whose members are natives of India, consists of two branches, the Judicial and the Executive. The members of the Judicial Branch are recruited, under rules framed by the Local Government, on the nomination of the High Court and are required to be graduates in law, or to have passed an analogous examination. They hold the posts of Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges, in number 21, and of Munsifs, who number 155. Promotions from the grades of Munsifs to those of Subordinate Judges are made by the Local Government. The Executive Branch comprises 165 Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors (or Extra Assistant Commissioners, as they are called in Assam), who are selected by the Local Government according to rules approved by the Government of India. The strength of this branch of the service will shortly be raised by an addition of 32 posts. The following appointments, which were formerly reserved for members of the Indian Civil Service, have now been thrown open to members of the Provincial Service:—

Headships of districts	2
District and Sessions Judgeships	2
Junior Secretaryship to the Board of Revenue	1
Under or Assistant Secretaryship to Government	1

Subordinate Civil Service.

122. The Subordinate Civil Service is composed of 120 Sub-Deputy Collectors distributed in four grades, who are recruited by nomination according to rules similar to those in force for the Provincial Civil Service. These officers are chiefly employed on duties connected with the administration of land revenue, on settlements, cess revaluations, partitions, collection of rent in the Government estates, the superintendence of excise administration, distilleries, etc., while many of them are vested with magisterial powers, and take a share in the judicial work of the mofussil. Several of them also hold charge of Subdivisional Treasuries. The strength of this Service will shortly be increased by 13 officers.

Executive administration.

123. As in other parts of India, the unit of administration is the District Magistrate and Collector, or Deputy Commissioner as he is called in the non-regulation districts. As Collector, he supervises the collection of the various branches of the revenue, and is the head of all the departments connected with it; as District Magistrate, he is responsible for the administration of criminal justice in the district, and is vested with certain well-defined original and appellate criminal powers. The district jail, although placed in the hands of an officer, usually the Civil Surgeon, selected for the duty, is under his general control, while, as head of the police, he exercises a general supervision over the force at his disposal. He is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Board (and in the case of Assam districts of the Local Boards), and as such, supervises local education, sanitation and the execution and administration of all local public works. The District Officer is, in fact, the executive chief and administrator of the tract of country committed to his charge and is assisted in his work at the sadr or headquarters subdivision by subordinate magistrates, who exercise both revenue and magisterial powers, and, in all but the smallest districts, by subdivisional magistrates, who are usually Joint, Assistant, or Deputy Magistrates (or Assistant or Extra Assistant Commissioners, as they are styled in Assam). In the hill districts, however, which are administered under special rules, some of the subdivisions are placed in charge of police officers. In Assam the subdivisional magistrate exercises within his own jurisdiction most of the functions of a District Officer, but in Eastern Bengal his duties are principally of a judicial nature.

Over the District Collectors (except the Deputy Commissioner in the Garo Hills, which has not yet been included in any Division) are the Divisional Commissioners, whose duties are principally those of supervision. In almost all matters, more

especially in revenue administration, they exercise a general superintendence. They are the channels of communication between local officers and Government, sifting and collating the information they receive.

The Commissioners, in their turn, are subject in revenue matters to the authority of the Board of Revenue, whose jurisdiction, however, has not yet been extended to the hill districts of Assam. The Board consists of two members, to whom a general control over the greater part of the revenue is entrusted. In other matters, the Commissioners are under the direct control of Government.

And at the head of all is the Lieutenant-Governor, who, in addition to his personal staff, is assisted by three Secretaries in the Civil Department, one Secretary in the Department of Public Works, two Under Secretaries, and two Assistant Secretaries.

Powers of the Lieutenant-Governor.

124. The management of the whole province is concentrated in the Lieutenant-Governor, who is answerable to the Government of India, and through that Government to Her Majesty's Ministers and Parliament. His responsibility is shared by no Executive Council, as in Madras or Bombay. Over his legislative, as over his executive functions, a power of control rests with the Government of India, but, subject to this limitation, he is practically supreme in his province. He cannot impose any additional tax nor make any change in the existing system of revenue management, but in all other matters of civil administration his authority is complete and his orders are final. In revenue and provincial finance his powers are similar to those exercised by the Government of India before the introduction of the system of provincial finance, while his patronage is extensive, all appointments with a salary not exceeding Rs. 250 a month and all offices not filled by a direct system of recruitment from England being in his hands. In the permanently-settled portion of the province, the power of granting reprieve in cases in which a sentence of death has been passed is vested in him, and in the hill districts and frontier tracts of Assam, which are administered under special rules framed under the Scheduled Districts Act (XIV of 1874) and are not subordinate to the jurisdiction of the High Court, he is the final appellate authority in the majority of criminal cases. Sentences of death and transportation require his confirmation in these tracts.

Revenue administration.

125. All matters of revenue are, as observed before, managed by the District Collectors (or Deputy Commissioners as they are called in Assam) and their establishment consists of Assistant Collectors and Deputy Collectors (or Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners), Sub-Deputy Collectors and other subordinate officers. The District Collector or Deputy Commissioner (except in the Garo Hills, which has not yet been included in any Division) is controlled by the Commissioner, and, in Excise and Salt administration, by the Commissioner of Excise and Salt; each of these officers is subject to the orders of the Board of Revenue, except in matters connected with the hill districts of Assam, in which they are under the direct control of the Lieutenant-Governor. The two members of the Board exercise in administrative matters full powers independently of one another, each member being the head of the Departments in his charge. Till the end of the year the distribution of revenue business between the two members was as follows:—

First Member—

Land Revenue, including settlement and survey, waste lands and land registration	Of the districts transferred from Bengal.
Cess	
Partitions	
Excise	Throughout the province.
Salt	
Court of Wards	

Second Member—

Land Revenue, including settlement and survey, waste lands and land registration	Of the districts of Assam.
Local rate	
Agricultural and Land Improvement Loans	Throughout the province.
Stamps	
Customs	
Business of all classes unspecified above	

In the permanently-settled part of the province there are no mufassil revenue establishments, all collections of revenue being made at the headquarters of the district, except in Sylhet, where there is a collecting office at each of the subdivisional

headquarters for the payment of revenue, and in Chittagong, where five circles have been formed for the management of the large number of petty estates scattered all over the district. In Sylhet, but in no other district, proceedings for the realisation of arrears of revenue (which are generally recovered by means of the Sale Law) are also taken at the subdivisions.

In the five Upper Assam Valley districts and in Cachar the revenue is realized by contractors called mauzadars, holding charge of the collection of revenue within definite areas called mauzas, into which these districts are divided. These officers are remunerated by a commission. The tahsildari system in these districts has gradually been abolished and but few tahsils remain. These are in process of abolition.

In the hill districts the general rule is that house-tax, and not land revenue, properly so called, is paid; but in the Garo Hills and a small area in the Jaintia and Naga Hills, there are tracts where land revenue is taken, and mauzadars are the agency employed for collection. The house-tax in the Garo, Jaintia, and Naga Hills, in North Cachar and in the few villages in the Khasi Hills which are British territory, is collected and paid by headmen, who, like the mauzadars of the Assam Valley, are remunerated by commission. These officers are called *laskars* and *lakmas* in the Garo Hills, *dollois* and *sardars* in the Jaintia and Khasi Hills, *lambaraars* in the Naga Hills, and mauzadars in North Cachar. In the Lushai Hills, the house-tax is collected and paid in by the village chiefs.

Financial administration.

126. Under the provincial financial settlement made with this province, the Local Government has been entrusted with the financial management of almost every branch of revenue and expenditure within the province. The receipts and expenditure on account of the general administration, courts of law, registration, police, jails, medical, education, political, superannuation charges, stationery, printing and various minor items have been made entirely Provincial. Besides these, the province receives one-half of the revenue from land, stamps, excise, assessed taxes, and forests, and is responsible for half the expenditure under heads other than land revenue, the bulk of the charges under which are debited to Provincial. An annual contribution of 5·1 lakhs is made in favour of provincial revenues.

Police.

127. The Police Department is supervised by an Inspector-General, who is usually a member of the Indian Civil Service. Two distinct forces are placed under his control, namely, the Military Police and the Civil Police (including the Railway and the River Police).

The Military Police are mostly confined to the military duties of manning frontier outposts, and holding as a garrison the Garo, Naga, and Lushai Hills. They consist of 6 battalions, namely (1) the Lakhimpur Battalion with headquarters at Dibrugarh, (2) the Silchar Battalion with headquarters at Silchar, (3) the Naga Hills Battalion with headquarters at Kohima, (4) the Garo Hills Battalion with headquarters at Tura, (5) the Lushai Hills Battalion with headquarters at Aijal, and (6) the Dacca Battalion with headquarters at Dacca. The Lakhimpur, Naga Hills and Lushai Hills Battalions are commanded by military officers and the last two have also two Military Assistant Commandants. The other three battalions are under the command of police officers.

To the district Civil Police is entrusted the detection of ordinary crime and the maintenance of law and order. In towns the work of watch and ward is performed by town chaukidars, who in theory are only night watchmen, but in practice do a certain amount of day duty. In each of the 22 plains districts the police are in charge of a Superintendent, and the districts are grouped into two ranges, each under the direct control of a Deputy Inspector-General. The Railway and River Police are under a third Deputy Inspector-General, who through the Central Criminal Investigation Department, also assists and controls the investigation of serious crime throughout the province. The administration of the Civil Police in the hill districts is in the hands of the Deputy Commissioners, subject to the direct supervision of the Inspector-General.

The entire police force is subject to Act V of 1861, but the Military Police are also under a special Regulation (The Assam Military Police Regulation, 1890), which makes provision for the enforcement of due discipline, and assimilates generally the terms of service to those prevailing in the Native Army.

Besides the regular police, there is a force of rural police in every district in the plains outside the limits of Assam Proper, who are required to give information and assist in the prevention and detection of crime generally. Almost all are paid a small monthly salary, which is realized from the villagers by the panchayat. In the Brahmaputra Valley there is no village police, the work being done by the mauzadars and

mandals, and in each village or group of hamlets there is a gaonbura, or village head man, who is the recognized representative of the villagers in police matters, but who receives no remuneration from Government.

Jails.

128. There are 21 district jails (including Dacca and Rampur Boalia which are also central jails of the first and second class respectively) and 38 subsidiary jails in the province. The Dacca central jail is managed by a whole-time Superintendent, and the remaining district jails by the chief medical officers of the districts. The control of the whole Department is vested in an Inspector-General of Jails.

Registration and excise.

129. The offices of Inspector-General of Registration and Commissioner of Excise are held by a single officer. All District Officers are *ex-officio* Registrars within their districts, and have a large staff of Special and Rural Sub-Registrars to work under them.

Land Records and Agriculture.

130. An officer styled the Director is the head of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture. A separate Agricultural Department is in process of formation. In future the main duties of the Director of Land Records will be, as heretofore, to supervise all survey and settlement operations, the Director of Agriculture dealing with the collection of trade and agricultural statistics, with the management of agricultural research and experiments, and other similar matters.

Medical Department.

131. The Medical Department is divided into two branches. An Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals is the head of the Medical Department, while a Sanitary Commissioner has been appointed to deal with all questions of a purely sanitary character. The medical staff consists of 27 Civil Surgeons, the majority of whom belong to the Indian Medical Service, and 47 Civil Assistant Surgeons, besides over 300 Civil Hospital Assistants. There are lunatic asylums at Dacca and Tezpur, and an asylum for the reception of lepers at Sylhet.

Forest Department.

132. The Forest Department is under the control of a Conservator, assisted by a staff of Deputy, Assistant and Extra Assistant Conservators.

Education Department.

133. The general management of the Education Department is entrusted to the Director of Public Instruction, who is assisted by five Inspectors.

Public Works Department.

134. The Public Works Department is under the general charge of a Chief Engineer, who is also Secretary to the Local Government, and is aided by an Assistant Secretary. Assam and East Bengal each forms a Circle in charge of a Superintending Engineer. The executive staff includes 8 Executive and 4 Assistant Engineers. Local works in East Bengal are generally entrusted to a District Engineer, engaged by District Boards, who work under the supervision of Inspectors of Works, of whom there are two.

Criminal Administration.

135. Stipendiary Magistrates are the foundation of the system of criminal administration throughout the province, except in the hill districts, though in Eastern Bengal a considerable amount of the work is done by Honorary Magistrates sitting either singly or as Benches. All Magistrates are vested with first, second or third class powers and the highest punishment they can award is imprisonment for two years (either rigorous or simple) or fine up to Rs. 1,000, or both combined. Any offence deserving a more severe punishment or too heinous to be dealt with by them is tried, with the aid of assessors or jurors, by the Sessions Judges, whose powers are limited only by the amount of punishment which can be inflicted under the Indian Penal Code, except that all sentences of death passed by them require the confirmation of the High Court at Calcutta. Appeals from the decisions of magistrates lie to the Sessions Judges, except in the case of magistrates with second and third-class powers, from whom appeals lie to the District Magistrate or to a magistrate who has been specially empowered in this behalf. Appeals from Sessions Judges are heard by the High Court.

Civil Administration.

136. The system of Civil Administration is different in the different parts of the province. In Eastern Bengal and Sylhet civil work is in charge of District and Subordinate Judges and a large staff of Munsifs. In the Assam Valley and Cachar Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners act as Munsifs, while the functions of a Subordinate Judge are discharged by the Deputy Commissioner. The jurisdiction of a District Judge or Subordinate Judge extends to all original suits cognizable by the Civil Courts, but does not include the powers of a Small Cause Court, unless these be specially conferred. The ordinary jurisdiction of a Munsif extends to all like suits in which the amount of the subject-matter in dispute does not exceed one thousand rupees, though the limit may be extended up to suits valued at two thousand rupees. Appeals from the orders of the District Judges lie to the High Court and those from the orders of Subordinate Judges and Munsifs to the District Judge, except when the value of the subject-matter exceeds Rs. 5,000, when the

appeal lies to the High Court. The High Court, with the sanction of the Local Government, may also direct, when necessary, that appeals from Munsiffs should lie to the Court of the Subordinate Judge. An appeal from the High Court lies to the Privy Council in England if the value or amount of the subject-matter exceeds Rs. 10,000.

Subject to certain exceptions, the jurisdiction of Courts of Small Causes extends to all suits of a civil nature of which the value does not exceed Rs. 500, a limit which may be extended to Rs. 1,000 by an order of the Local Government with respect to any specified Court. The Lieutenant-Governor is empowered to invest Subordinate Judges and Munsifs with Small Cause Court jurisdiction for the trial of cases not exceeding Rs. 500 in value in the case of Subordinate Judges, and Rs. 100 in the case of Munsiffs.

Civil and criminal administration in the hill tracts.

137. In the hill tracts and certain frontier tracts (the North Cachar subdivision, the Mikir Hill tracts in Nowgong, and the Dibrugarh frontier tract in Lakhimpur), the system of civil and criminal administration is different. By orders issued under the Frontier Tracts Regulation, II of 1880, they have been excluded from the operation of the enactments relating to Criminal Procedure (the Civil Procedure Code never was in force in the hill districts) stamps, court-fees, registration, and transfer of property; and a simpler system of administering justice has been prescribed by rules framed under the Scheduled Districts Act. In these tracts the head of the Local Government is the chief appellate authority in civil and criminal cases, and the High Court possesses no jurisdiction except in criminal cases against European British subjects; the Deputy Commissioner exercises the combined powers of Judge and District Magistrate and the Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners the powers of Magistrates and Munsifs. Petty cases, both civil and criminal, are dealt with by village tribunals presided over by headmen chosen by the people themselves, whose procedure is free from all legal technicalities.

The Eastern Duars in Goalpara are also administered, in civil matters, in accordance with rules under the Scheduled Districts Act, in lieu of the Civil Procedure Code, which is not in force there.

Local self-government.

138. Besides the agency of Government officers, much assistance is given to the administration of the province by local bodies, who administer funds raised under special enactments or placed at their disposal by the Local Government. These are municipalities for town areas, and District or Local Boards for the district at large.

Municipalities.

139. There are 49 municipal institutions in the province, of which 39 were constituted under Act III (B.C.) of 1884 and 10 (5 municipalities, 2 stations and 3 unions) under Act V (B.C.) of 1876. In 27 municipalities in Eastern Bengal and in 6 in Assam the elective system is in force. The official members of all municipal committees are very few in number; and although the Chairmen in some instances are officials, the Vice-Chairmen are almost always non-officials.

These bodies derive their income partly from taxation and partly from other sources. The taxation levied in municipalities is chiefly in the form of a tax on persons and buildings, latrine-fees and a water-rate (in Mymensingh, Gauhati and Shillong). In 13 municipalities only the taxation is on holdings. Other items of taxation are taxes on animals and wheeled vehicles. These taxes are levied under the provisions of the Act under which each municipality, etc., is constituted. Of the other sources of income the most important are the receipts from ferries, from municipal pounds, from markets and slaughter-houses, and the grants from Provincial and Local Funds enjoyed by almost all the municipalities.

District and Local Boards.

140. There are in the province two systems of rural self-government. In the transferred districts Act III (B.C.) of 1885 is in force. This Act has two objects, *viz.*, (1) to educate the people to undertake the responsibility of managing their own local affairs, and (2) to lighten the burden of administration. In order to carry out these objects, 14 District Boards, 32 Subdivisional Local Boards and 9 Union Committees have been constituted. In Assam, where the Act is not in force, 19 Subdivisional Local Boards have been created under executive orders. The Assam Boards are in no sense comparable with the Subdivisional Boards of the transferred districts. Although enjoying no legal constitution, they are generally similar in their functions and responsibilities to the District Boards of Eastern Bengal. Both alike consist of official and non-official members. The members in Eastern Bengal are elected, one-half by the Subdivisional Local Boards and the other half by Government, except in the districts where there are no Local Boards. In these districts, as well as in the majority of the Boards in Assam, all the members are nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor. The planter members are, however, in all cases elected by the planting community, and

the Indian members in the three districts of Kamrup, Sibsagar and Sylhet are chosen by the people. In every case the Magistrate of the district (or Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer as the case may be in Assam) has been appointed by Government to be the Chairman, and experience has shown the wisdom of this step. The Boards have been entrusted with the maintenance of all roads, bridges, channels, etc., within their jurisdiction (except a few main lines of communication), with the management of primary education, and with the administration of grants-in-aid to schools, subject to rules that have been laid down. They also deal with the administration of, and expenditure on, village sanitation, dispensaries, and similar matters. For these purposes, they have placed at their disposal a rate which is levied in Assam under the Assam Local Rates Regulation of 1879 and in Eastern Bengal under the Road Cess Act (Act IX of 1880) as well as the surplus income of pounds and ferries and some minor receipts. This income is supplemented in most cases by an annual grant from the Provincial Funds. The Annual Budgets of the Boards are submitted to the Commissioners of Divisions for sanction. The execution of important works requiring much professional skill is entrusted, in Assam, to Executive Engineers and in Eastern Bengal to District Engineers, who are employed by the District Boards. Less important works are entrusted to the Board overseers.

The Subdivisional Local Boards in Eastern Bengal are formed on the combined principle of election and nomination by Government, and as a rule the head of the subdivision is appointed the Chairman. They act generally as agents of the District Boards.

Union Committees.

141. Union Committees have for the most part been entrusted with the control of pounds, village roads, sanitation and water-supply. In regard to primary schools, their authority is restricted to inspection. Their income consists of (1) net receipts from pounds, (2) a grant from the District Boards, and (3) funds raised under section 118 of the Act. Their resources are very limited and no very striking results can be expected from them.

SECTION 4.—Character of Land Tenures; System of Settlement and Survey.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES.

I.—Eastern Bengal.

Eastern Bengal.

With the exception of some parts which are temporarily settled, the land revenue in Eastern Bengal is fixed under the Permanent Settlement, concluded by Lord Cornwallis in 1793.

Permanent Settlement, 1793.

142. It has already been stated that the East India Company succeeded to the Dewani of Bengal, Behar and Orissa in 1765, and that it was not till 1771, that they assumed, by the agency of their own servants, the direct management of the revenues. When, as a result of the grant of the Dewani, it became necessary for the Company's servants to undertake the administration of the land revenue, they were placed in one of the most extraordinary positions recorded in history. Ten years before, they had been utterly expelled from the country, of which they now assumed the *de facto* government. Having been solely occupied in the pursuit of trade, they had no previous means of acquiring that knowledge and experience which were necessary to enable them to take with confidence the helm of affairs. The whole theory of Indian land revenue was unknown to them, nor was there a system of written rules and plain principles which they could learn by careful application. "The Company's servants," as Mr. Kaye says, "were dead hands at investments, but they knew nothing of land tenures." Accordingly, the revenue was for some years collected on the old Moghul system. The zamindars, or Government farmers, were recognised as having a right to collect the revenue from the actual cultivators, but no principle of assessment existed. The assessments were made for five years at one period, and for one year at another; while abuses prevailed as much in the collection of the revenue due to Government as in the realization of the rents due to zamindars. It was the object of Lord Cornwallis, almost from the moment of his arrival, to enquire into these abuses, to redress grievances, and to provide for the wellbeing of the cultivating community, the security of the zamindars, and the interest of the East India Company by one equitable code and system. With this object in view, the Decennial Settlement was commenced in 1789, and completed in 1791. Lord Cornwallis advocated the making of this settlement permanent at once, but the Court of Directors, knowing that Shore and other able advisers deprecated the immediate declaration of permanence, deliberated for two years, and it was not till September

1792, that they consented to the proposal. A proclamation was then issued on the 22nd of March 1793, by which the Governor General in Council declared that the zamindars, independent talukdars and other actual proprietors of land, with whom the Decennial Settlement had been concluded, would be allowed to hold their estates at the same assessment for ever, but that "no claims for remission or suspension of rent were to be admitted on any account, and lands of proprietors were to be invariably sold for arrears." Proprietors were also declared to have the privilege of transferring their lands without the sanction of Government, and partition or division of estates was to be freely allowed. This proclamation was afterwards included in the Statute Book as Regulation I of 1793.

Permanently settled tracts.

143. The Permanent Settlement embraced, roughly speaking, the tracts of country now included in the Burdwan, the Presidency, Patna, Bhagalpur, Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong divisions. It also comprised parts of the Hazaribagh and Manbhum districts and a few estates in Singhbhum and Ranchi in the Chota Nagpur division, as well as Goalpara and Sylhet. Of these, only the Rajshahi, Dacca and Chittagong divisions in Eastern Bengal, and Sylhet and Goalpara in Assam are dealt with in this report.

Resumption proceedings.

144. At the time of the Permanent Settlement large areas were claimed as revenue free and the authority to scrutinize such revenue-free grants and, if invalid to annex them was reserved. Under Regulations XIX and XXXVII of 1793, Badshahi grants (*i.e.*, direct from the Moghul Emperor) were recognized as valid, if the holder could prove his sanad and was in possession, and Hukumi grants (*i.e.*, from officials of the Emperor), though by their nature invalid, were accepted as valid if dated prior to 1765. No active steps, however, were taken to resume invalid grants until 1830, when a Special Commissioner was appointed under the provisions of Regulation III of 1828. The resumption proceedings then begun lasted for twenty years and some thousands of estates were added to the revenue roll.

Temporarily settled tracts.

145. The temporarily settled tracts in Eastern Bengal consist chiefly of the Western Duars in Jalpaiguri, taken in 1864 from Bhutan, a large portion of the Chittagong district known as the Noabad area, and the Bakarganj portion of the Sundarbans. In addition to these many scattered estates which have become the property of Government by purchase at revenue sales or by alluvial accretions are settled for terms fixed by Government.

Status of zamindars.

146. The zamindars, with whom the settlement was made, were a heterogeneous body of men differing as to historical origin and actual status. Some of them, like the Rajas of Tippera, Cuch Behar, Bishenpur and Birbhum, represented the old Hindu and Mahomedan Rajas of the country previous to the Moghul conquest by the Emperor Akbar in 1576, or persons who claimed that status; others, like the Rajas of Rajshahi and Dinajpur, belonged to the great landholding families that came into existence during the Mahomedan Government through its sufferance or favour, and were *de facto* rulers in their own estates or territories, and paid only a fixed tribute or land-tax; while a third, the most numerous class, consisted of men whose families had held the office of revenue collector during one, two or more generations, and had thus, according to the practice of the East, established a kind of prescriptive right. Besides these, there were the revenue farmers who, since the grant of the Dewani in 1765, had collected the land revenue for the East India Company, and who also happened to be called zamindars. Thus, in 1790, the term zamindar included not only the mere collectors of revenue or tahsildars removable at pleasure, but also the land-owners who held princely courts, dispensed justice in their own territories, maintained their own bodies of armed followers, and handed down their position from father to son. As a result of the Permanent Settlement, all these classes were placed on a uniform legal basis, and all previous differences in the customary *status* of several classes, which had grown out of differences in origin, were obliterated.

History of the law of landlord and tenant.

147. Causes very similar to those that led to the feudalization of Europe were in force in India at the beginning and middle of the eighteenth century, and when the English found themselves masters of the country, they saw a state of things not unlike the feudal government of the Middle Ages. Consciously or unconsciously, Lord Cornwallis was thus led to introduce an imitation of the English system of landed property. The State assumed to itself and made over to the zamindars its own supposed proprietary right to the soil, as if the cultivators had no right to hold land against the will of the Government and its grantees. Deeper and closer observation, however, would have disclosed, underlying the upper layer, conditions of life and ideas of legal rights and obligations dissimilar to any with which Englishmen were familiar; and they consequently failed to appreciate, far less to grapple with,

them. The property in the soil was formally declared to be vested in the landholders, but no adequate provision was made for the protection of the class of persons who were the real proprietors of the soil, and who deserved the largest amount of protection from the hands of Government.

148. Regulation VIII of 1793 no doubt imposed restrictions on the levying of any new *abwab* or *mathut, i.e.*, illegal cesses, from the raiyats, and also made provisions for the compulsory issue of *pattas* or leases obtained *bonâ fide* from a landlord, and directed that they should not be cancelled except upon a general measurement of the pargana for the purpose of equalising and correcting the assessment, or upon proof that the *pattas* had been obtained in collusion, or that the rents, paid within the last three years, had been reduced below the *nirikbund* of the pargana (pargana rate). But beyond these vague and general rules, there was nothing laid down to regulate the relations between the zamindars and the raiyats. Lord Cornwallis was sanguine that the combined effects of the limitation and permanent settlement of the State demand, and of the *patta* regulations, would have the ultimate effect of adjusting the relations between the two parties. His hopes were, however, not realized. The first disappointment experienced was the failure of the attempt to enforce the issue of written leases for all tenancies. In many instances, the zamindars were unwilling to grant *pattas* or tendered them at more than the customary rates; in others, the raiyats refused to accept them either because they could not understand them, or because they thought the terms to be unfair; while the pargana rates according to which, under Regulation IV of 1794, the Civil Courts were to decide all disputes, varied from pargana to pargana and even in adjoining villages, and never were, nor could be, ascertained. Regulation VIII of 1793.

149. A constant struggle was thus kept up between the parties. The raiyat refused to pay his rent, and the zamindar had no legal means of enforcing the payment from him with the same rigid punctuality with which the Collector insisted upon the payment of the Government revenue. The result was a widespread default in the payment of the Government dues and the sale of a large number of estates. "By the end of the century," says a competent authority, "the greater portions of the estates of the Nadia, Rajshahi, Bishenpur and Dinajpur Rajas had been alienated. The Burdwan estate was seriously crippled, and the Birbhum zamindari was completely ruined. A host of smaller zamindaries shared the same fate. In fact, it is scarcely too much to say that, within the ten years that immediately followed the Permanent Settlement, a complete revolution took place in the constitution and ownership of the estates which formed the subject of that settlement."

150. This circumstance caused to the East India Company, which had to pay its dividends and to meet the expenses of the great war with Tippo Sultan, in which Lord Wellesley was then engaged, some alarm for the security of the revenue, and the Government, pressed by want of money, agreed to strengthen the hands of those on whom it immediately depended for its punctual payment. The notorious Haftam, or Regulation VII of 1799, was, therefore, enacted "for enabling proprietors and farmers of land to realize their rents with greater punctuality." This Regulation gave the landlords practically unrestricted right of distraint. They were empowered "to distrain, without sending any notice to any Court of Justice or any public officer, the crops and products of the earth of every description, the grain, cattle, and all other personal property, whether found in the house or on the premises of any other person." To make matters worse, Magistrates were required to punish, by fine or imprisonment, raiyats who could not establish the truthfulness of complaints of hardship brought by them against landlords, or their distraining agents, and the Civil Courts were directed to indemnify zamindari officers, or others employed in the collections, when improperly summoned. This Regulation was not meant to define or limit the actual "rights of any description of landholders or tenants, which could properly be ascertained and determined by judicial investigation only, but merely to point out in what manner defaulting tenants should be proceeded against in the event of their not paying the rents justly due from them, leaving them to recover their rights, if infringed, with full costs and damages in the established Courts of Justice." "These last provisions," remarks Mr. Field, "scarcely required comment. "There is scarcely a country in the civilized world in which a landlord is allowed to evict his tenant without having recourse to the regular tribunals; but the Bengal zamindar was deliberately told by the Legislature that he was at liberty to oust his tenants if the rents *claimed by him* were in arrear at the end of the year, leaving *them* to recover their rights, if infringed, by having recourse to those new and untried Courts of Justice, the failure in which might be punished with fine or imprisonment." Regulation VII of 1799.

151. There was, however, no intention to abrogate the rights of the raiyats by Regulation VII of 1799; and when, during Lord Minto's Administration, the evil effects of the Regulation became known, there was a strong revulsion of official feeling, which produced Regulation V of 1812 (*the Panjam*), *whereby it was hoped to correct the bad effects of Regulation VII of 1799. The preamble to this Regulation is somewhat in the nature of an indictment against zamindars. There were grounds, it was said, for believing that this class had abused their powers and had been guilty of acts of* oppression in connection with the distraint and sale of the property of their tenants. It was, therefore, enacted that zamindars were bound to serve their tenants with a written demand specifying the precise amount of their arrears, and, by way of relief or compensation, the tenant, if he disputed the justice of the demand, was enabled to get the attachment released by making a certain application within five days and binding himself to institute a civil suit to contest the distraint and attachment within another fifteen days. But this provision was clogged with formalities, and in practice was inoperative. The defaulting tenant had to execute a bond with a surety before either a Commissioner, a Judge, a Collector, or the Kazi of the Pargana that he would speedily institute his suit, and a civil suit in those days involved much trouble, a good deal of time, and no inconsiderable outlay. If the suit was not instituted within the prescribed time, the attachment revived against the person and the property of the defaulter who had given sureties for his action, and the property of the unfortunate surety became liable for the arrears of rent, if no suit was brought. It is noticeable that there is raised in this law for the first time a doubt as to the existence of any regular standard known as the Pargana Rate. Failing such rates, rents were to be assessed and collections made according to the rates payable for lands of a similar description in the neighbourhood. There was another important section in the law by which an enhanced rate of rent could not be levied or awarded judicially unless it was preceded by a formal notice. Of the excellent intention of the framers of this law there can be no doubt, but it made no provision for defining rights by record, and thus only dealt with a part of the evil. It would, however, have been a relief had it not been neutralized by other Regulations.

Regulation V of 1812.

152. In a despatch, dated the 1st of August 1822, the Government of India proposed to the Court of Directors to make a survey and record-of-rights of the permanently settled districts of Bengal, as being the only effectual means of defining and maintaining the rights of the raiyats. This proposal was, however, never carried out and, while the correspondence relating to it was proceeding, fresh legislation, which proved injurious to the raiyats, was undertaken. A Regulation, No. XI, was passed in 1822, relating to the sale of land for arrears of revenue which, being, like the Haftam, intended to enable the zamindars to realize their rents and then discharge the Government revenue, really placed them in a position of abnormal superiority to their raiyats.

Regulation XI of 1822.

153. Thus, up to the middle of the last century, the zamindars exercised an authority over the raiyats far greater than that given to them by the original settlement of 1793. All legislation of this period, dealing with landlord and tenant, had one primary object, *viz.*, the security of the public revenue, and each successive Regulation served only to arm those who were under engagements for revenue with additional powers, so as to enable them to realize their demands in the first instance, whether right or wrong. "Under the Haftam process," as has been well observed, "the person of the raiyat could be seized in default; under the Panjam process his property could be distrained; and in either case the proceedings commenced with what has been described as a strong presumption equivalent to a knock-down blow against the raiyat." Remedies were no doubt provided in every Regulation for redress against any injustice by referring discontented parties to the Civil Court but, constituted as the Civil Courts then were, the raiyats were left without adequate means of relief for the most manifest extortions. Regulation I of 1795 had declared: "It being the duty of the ruling power to protect all classes of people and more particularly those who, from their situation, are helpless, the Governor-General in Council will, whenever he may deem it proper, enact such Regulations as he may think necessary for the protection and welfare of the dependent talukdars, raiyats and other cultivators of the soil," but no attempt even was made to give effect to this declaration till 1859.

154. Act X of 1859, which may be described as the first modern tenant law, came at a time when the evils of the existing state of things were so patent, that in giving his assent to the Act as passed by the Legislative Council on the 29th of April 1859, Lord Canning was able to say, "no objection is suggested to the nature of the Settlement which the Bill contemplates." The Act defined the classes of tenants whose rent was fixed, and conferred a right of occupancy on those who had continously held the same land for twelve years either personally, or through their predecessors from whom the

Act X of 1859.

holding descended. This right of occupancy was of course conditional on the due payment of rent which could only be enhanced for certain specified reasons and by a certain procedure. The Act also made provisions for settling rent-disputes and questions of abatement and enhancement, renewed the attempt to bring about an interchange of *pattas* and *kabulyats*, directed the delivery of receipts for rent, and transferred the original jurisdiction in suits between landlord and tenant from the Civil to the Revenue Courts. Distraint was modified but not abolished, and the registration of transfers of permanent transferable interests between the cultivator and the landlord was made compulsory. Act X of 1859 was amended by Bengal Act VIII of 1869, by which the trial of rent suits was again transferred from the Revenue authorities to the Civil Courts.

155. The principal defects of Act X of 1859 were that it placed the right of occupancy which it recognised in the tenant, and the right of enhancement which it recognised in the landlord, on a precarious footing. It gave, or professed to give, the raiyat a right which he could not prove, and the landlord one which he could not enforce. The courts of law with rigid impartiality, required the raiyat to establish his occupancy right by showing that he had cultivated the same plot of land for twelve successive years, and demanded from the landlord the impossible proof that the value of the produce had increased in the same proportion in which he asked that his rent should be enhanced. The party upon whom lay the burden of proof was almost certain to fail. To this evil the Bengal Tenancy Act (Act VIII of 1885) was intended to afford a remedy. The principle of the Act may be said to be based upon a system of fixity of tenure at judicial rents, and its three main objects are,—first to give the settled raiyat the same security in his holding as he enjoyed under the old customary law; secondly, to ensure to the landlord a fair share of the increased value of the produce of the soil; and, thirdly, to lay down rules by which all disputed questions between landlord and tenant can be reduced to simple issues and decided upon equitable principles. A good example of the first will be found in the clause which throws upon the landlord the onus of disproving the raiyat's claim to a right of occupancy; the second is illustrated by the section relating to price lists, which relieves the zamindar of the burden of showing that the value of the produce has increased; the third pervades the whole of the Act, and is especially conspicuous in the valuable section which authorizes an application to determine the incidents of a tenancy, and in the chapter which relates to records-of-right and settlements of rents. The maintenance of the principles of the Act is further safeguarded by a section which restricts the power of entering into contracts in contravention of its fundamental provisions. Act VIII of 1885.

156. In pursuance of these main principles, the Act lays down rules to guide the courts in determining whether a tenant is a tenure-holder or a raiyat; it provides a procedure for the registration of the transfers of tenures; it defines the position of raiyats who hold at fixed rates of rent; it facilitates enhancement or reduction of rents of settled and other raiyats by suit, it establishes a system for the commutation of rents payable in kind; it specifies the grounds on which a non-occupancy raiyat may be ejected; it prescribes rules for instalments, receipts, and interest upon arrears; it encourages the making of improvements; it restricts subletting; it provides for cases in which holdings are surrendered or abandoned; it protects the interests, both of the parties and of the general public, in cases of disputes between co-sharers; it lays down a procedure for recording the private lands of proprietors; it introduces a new system of distraint; it gives protection to sub-tenants when the interest of the superior holder is relinquished or sold in execution of a decree, and finally it provides for a survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights in respect of any local area, estate or tenure or part thereof, by a Revenue officer and thus settle all disputes between landlord and tenant as to area, rent and status which are the chief subjects of contention. Moreover, by repeal of Act VIII (B.C.) of 1879, the Act under which settlements of land revenue were previously made by Government, the latter is placed on the same footing as other proprietors except in regard to the retention of the certificate procedure for the speedy recovery of arrears of its rent. This is the existing tenant law of Eastern Bengal.

157. Thus the Legislature of 1885, nearly a century after the Permanent Settlement, at length settled the general principles by which the relation between the landlord and the tenant was to be regulated. That the Act was a complete and final settlement of the questions with which it dealt was not urged by its most strenuous advocates. But that this want of completeness and finality was not merely natural but inevitable was forcibly urged by Sir C. P. Ilbert in the course of the debate on the Bill, and the question can hardly be better summed up than in the words he used:—"What the Council have to consider, as practical men, is, not whether this is an ideally perfect measure, not whether it is a final settlement of questions between landlord and tenant in Bengal, not whether it is likely to usher in a millennium either for the zamindar or for the

raiyat, but whether it represents a step in advance, whether it does something substantial towards removing admitted defects in the existing law, whether it does not give some substantial form of security to the tenant, and some reasonable facilities to the landlord. It is because I believe that the measure, however it may fall short of ideal perfection, does embody substantial improvements in the existing law, that I commend it to the favourable consideration of the Council."

Act III of 1898.

158. The law remained unaltered, excepting a small amendent by Act V (B.C.) of 1894, till 1897 when a Bill to amend certain sections and Chapter X (relating to records-of-rights and settlements of rents) of the Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885, was introduced in the Legislative Council, the object of the changes proposed being to clear up doubts and difficulties of procedure which had arisen in the course of experience in working Chapter X; to facilitate the settlements of rents when undertaken on a large scale, either for the purpose of settling land revenue or on the application of private individuals; to amend the substantive law relating to the enhancement and reduction of rents, so as to make certain provisions of the law more workable, and to give effect to the intention of its authors regarding certain points, on which, owing to a want of sufficient clearness in the wording of the law or to the interpretation put on it by the Civil Courts, it had been found in practice to be inoperative. In view, chiefly, of the opposition of the landlord class to the proposed provision for the settlement of rents by revenue officers without judicial procedure or an appeal to the Civil Courts, it was decided to make no change in the procedure for settling rents in the case of permanently-settled estates, but to restrict the amendment proposed in this respect to all Government estates and to temporarily-settled areas under settlement. The Bill as introduced was accordingly revised, and finally passed as Act III (B.C) of 1898.

Record-of-right. (a) Registration of estates.

159. A primary object of the framers of the Permanent Settlement was to record all rights in the land. Accordingly, the Legislature intended from the beginning that there should be at least one register kept up, showing the extent and particulars of each estate separately assessed with revenue payable to Government. The object was to enable the Collectors to apportion the revenue in cases of partitions, and to enable the Civil Courts to know when an estate changed hands, or happened to be transferred from one district to another.

Regulation XLVII of 1793.

160. Regulation XLVII of 1793 prescribed a general register of estates paying revenue immediately to Government. Each estate was to be described by name, and it was to be mentioned whether it consisted of a village, a *tappa* (group of villages), or a pargana. The nature of the grant was to be described and, if the estate had been partitioned, the shares were to be specified. A register of intermediate mutations was to be kept, and the general register was to be rewritten every five years. The Registration Regulation of 1800 made further provisions, and directed that the registers should be kept up by parganas, but, up till the passing of the Bengal Land Registration Act (VII of 1876), the law as to registration was not strictly enforced. Such registers as there were did not explain who the owners were, and furnished no information about under-tenures and raiyats.

Act VII of 1876.

161. The present law requires the registration of all lands, whether revenue-paying or revenue-free, and every person in possession, as owner or manager of such lands, or of any share in such lands, is required within a certain period, and under heavy penalties, to register full particulars of the property in his possession. The object of the Act is not to make an inquisition into titles, but to identify all individuals on whom the Legislature has imposed certain duties and obligations in virtue of their being in possession of land as proprietors. The registers, required to be kept up now, are (1) a register A showing the revenue-paying lands in the district, (2) a register B of revenue-free lands, (3) a register C of lands paying revenue and those held revenue-free, arranged "mauzawar," and (4) an intermediate register D for all kinds of land, showing the changes in proprietary rights and changes caused by the alteration of the district and other boundaries. These registers are now maintained in every district.

(b) Registration of subordinate interests in land.

162. It will be observed that these registers do not profess to deal with any subordinate rights or interests. For several years after the Permanent Settlement endeavours were made to maintain a record of these through kanungos and patwaris, but without success. An attempt was made to revive the system in 1885, but had to be abandoned. In 1895 the Land Records Maintenance Act was passed, and it has been worked experimentally in selected districts in Bengal, but the result has been disappointing. A scheme for the maintenance of records in the district of Chittagong is now under consideration and details are being elaborated by a Special Officer. The defect in the registration of subordinate interests has been partially supplied by the returns submitted

under the Road Cess Act. The results are, however, vitiated by the system of summary valuation for the purposes of cess calculation which "withdraws from sight all details of tenures, under-tenures and raiyati holdings contained in such estates or tenures as are summarily valued." "In the instructions issued to the officers engaged in making revaluations under Act IX of 1880, an attempt was made to remedy this defect in the returns by declaring that the least possible recourse should be had to the process of summary valuation." The Bengal Tenancy Act (VIII of 1885), however, now provides for the preparation of the record-of-rights of all interests in land. This has been prepared for the district of Chittagong and a large part of Tippera and is being prepared for the districts of Bakarganj, Faridpur and Jalpaiguri. Another method of registering under-tenures is that under the Sale Law (Act XI of 1859), which provides that they may be registered either in a common or a special register. Registration in the former protects them from being voided on sale of the estate for arrears, by any party other than Government, and registration in the latter protects them absolutely. Changes in certain subordinate interests, *viz.*, permanent tenures, and holdings at rents or rates of rent fixed in perpetuity (and shares of the same) are registered under the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Means of recovering revenue.

163. The revenue of the permanently-settled estates of Eastern Bengal is, as a rule, realized with great punctuality. As the jumma was fixed by the Permanent Settlement never to be increased, so, on the other hand, remissions were declared to be inadmissible whether on the plea of loss from unfavourable seasons, inundations or any other cause. The payment of revenue is the first charge on an estate, and a default, on the part of a zamindar, renders his property liable to sale by auction for the realization of the arrears.

164. In the earlier years, the revenue instalments were payable monthly, and an arrear of revenue was defined to be "the whole or the portion of the *kist*, or instalment, payable in any month and remaining undischarged on the 1st of the following month." On the accrual of an arrear, the Collector was to serve a notice on the defaulter, and, on his failure to pay, had the option of putting him under confinement. The Board of Revenue alone, however, could direct the sale of the whole or any portion of the estate, and the sanction of the Governor-General in Council was in every case necessary. If the proceeds of the sale did not satisfy the Government demand, other properties of the defaulter might be sold to recover the remainder. In 1794 proprietors of land were declared to be no longer liable to be confined for arrears of public revenue, unless in the event of the whole of their lands having been sold without realizing sufficient to defray the amount due to Government. The Board were at the same time authorized to advertize estates for sale in anticipation of the sanction of the Governor-General, but no sale was to take place without such sanction.

Regulation VII of 1799.

165. Material alterations were made in the law by Regulation VII of 1799. It was then enacted that, when an arrear remained undischarged on the first day of the month succeeding that for which it was due, the Collector was immediately to require payment with interest; and, if it were not then discharged, he was to proceed without delay to attach the estates of the defaulter or such portions thereof as would be sufficient to make good the amount due. These estates were, however, not to be sold till the end of the year, and the Board were now for the first time authorized to sell them without any reference to the Governor-General. If the whole arrear was not recovered from the sale of the defaulter's lands, the deficiency was to be recoverable from any other property he might possess or by imprisonment of his person.

Regulation XVIII of 1814.

166. By Regulation XVIII of 1814 a further modification was made. It authorized the Collectors to advertize the lands of a defaulter for sale without the previous sanction of the Board of Revenue, if such lands constituted an entire estate or the whole of the defaulter's rights and interests in a joint estate. He was then to report to the Board, and was not to proceed to actual sale until receipt of the Board's sanction. This sanction the Board were empowered to give without any previous reference to the Governor-General in Council.

Regulation XI of 1822.

167. The next Regulation of importance was XI of 1822. During the twenty years which had elapsed since the passing of Regulation VII of 1799, a great change had taken place. The object of the legislation in 1799 and the following years had been to secure the punctual realization of the revenue assessed at the time of the Permanent Settlement without resort to the old system of confining, and occasionally inflicting corporal punishment upon defaulters. The terror of personal coercion being removed, various devices had been practised to elude payment of the just dues of Government; and, in many instances, these dues had not been discharged, because those who were liable to Government for revenue were unable to compel similar punctuality in the payment of rent by

their tenants. Armed, however, with powers of enforcing payment scarcely inferior to those exercised by Government for enforcing payments of its revenue, and taught by experience that persistence in fraudulent devices was sure to result in an ultimate loss, the great majority were successfully schooled to punctuality, and cases of default became yearly of less frequent occurrence. At the same time the prosperity, resulting from more than a quarter of a century's peace, largely raised the value of land, and, where arrears had been suffered to accrue, owing to temporary apathy, or mismanagement, or negligence, or dishonesty of agents, and, in consequence, an estate had been brought to sale by the inexorable revenue authorities, flaws in their proceedings were eagerly searched for, and the Civil Courts were resorted to for setting aside sales at which irregularities had been discovered. The rights of the auction purchasers, not being very exactly defined by the Regulations, formed moreover a constant source of litigation. We find the Legislature in 1822, therefore, no longer devising means for bringing home their liability for arrears to proprietors, but improving the procedure of the revenue authorities, declaring what irregularities should be held material and what immaterial, and defining the exact interest acquired by purchasers at public sales.

168. Accordingly, Regulation XI of 1822 dispensed with the necessity of issuing process of attachment before putting the estate up for sale; laid down the conditions necessary for the validity of the sale; defined the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts in cases of sale; framed rules for the conduct of sales; and vested the Board of Revenue with the power of annulling sales made by Collectors under their authority, not only in cases in which they appeared to have been irregularly conducted by those officers, but also in cases in which the defaulter might clearly appear to have been defrauded or deceived by his own agents, or in which the confirmation of the sale might, from any cause, appear to be a measure of excessive severity or to be otherwise inexpedient or improper.

Regulation VII of 1830.

169. The last of the Regulations concerned with recovery of arrears of revenue was Regulation VII of 1830, which authorized Collectors to advertize estates in balance for sale, and to proceed to actual sale without any previous reference for the sanction of the Commissioner, who had been appointed under the provisions of Regulation I of 1829, and to whom had been delegated some of the more immediate functions of the Board. No sale was, however, to be final until it had been confirmed by the Commissioner.

Act XII of 1841.

170. This law lasted till 1841, when Act XII replaced it. The provisions of the latter Act, which were re-enacted with slight modifications in Act I of 1845, are still to be found in almost their original form in Act XI of 1859, the existing Sale Law for Eastern Bengal.

Act XI of 1859.

171. Act XI was passed not so much from any necessity for altering what had been done in 1841, or for remedying defects which time had brought to light in the working of the law as then settled, as from the expediency of affording protection to new interests which had sprung up during a further period of progress and prosperity.

Under this Act an "arrear" accrues, if the *kist* or instalment of revenue of one month remains unpaid on the 1st of the following month, but in some cases notice for fifteen days before sale is required; persons, who have a lien upon any estate and who pay the money to protect such estate from sale, are allowed to add the amount so paid to the amount of the original lien; sharers of a joint estate can protect their own shares from being sold for arrears along with the rest of the estate by applying to the Collector to be allowed to pay their share of the Government revenue separately. To guard against the accidental sale of their estates by reason of the neglect or fraud of their agents, recorded proprietors of estates are empowered to deposit with the Collector money or Government securities endorsed and made payable to the order of the Collector, at the same time signing an agreement pledging the same to Government by way of security for the revenue of the entire estate, and authorizing the Collector to apply them to the payment of any revenue that may become due therefrom; and, lastly, to protect the holders of under-tenures from loss by the avoidance of their tenures by the sale of the estate, the law provides for two sets of registers, one for Common Registry, and the other for Special Registry, Common Registry securing them against any auction-purchaser except Government, and Special Registry securing them against Government also.

An appeal against a sale, held by the Collector, lies to the Commissioner who may set aside the sale if illegal, or in cases of hardship, report to the Board, on whose recommendation it may be annulled by the Local Government. The Civil Courts have also been empowered to set aside sales in certain cases.

172. One feature of the Sale Law, which was early considered to be necessary, deserves notice. Soon after the Permanent Settlement it became a custom with the landlords to divest themselves of the trouble of management by farming out portions of their estates. There were so many encumbrances, and it was apprehended that, if they remained valid when the landlord's interest was sold for arrears of revenue, the prices realized would not be sufficient to meet the demands of Government. It was, accordingly, enacted in the Regulation of 1793, that, on a sale for arrears of revenue, all engagements subsisting between the proprietors and their dependent talukdars, farmers and raiyats, on account of such land, should, with certain exceptions, stand cancelled. But this wholesale avoidance of contracts, made by the defaulting landlords, was soon recognised to be excessive, and successive Regulations and Acts have mitigated the terms. The protected interests under the present Sale Law are :—

Interests protected under Act XI of 1859.

(1) Istimrari or mukarrari tenures, which have been held at a fixed rent from the time of the Permanent Settlement;

(2) Tenures, existing at the time of the Settlement, which have not been held at a fixed rent; provided that the rents of such tenures shall be liable to enhancement under any law for the time being in force for the enhancement of the rent of such tenures;

(3) Talukdari and other similar tenures created since the time of the Settlement and held immediately by the proprietors of estates, and farms for terms of years so held, when such tenures and farms have been duly registered under the provision of this Act; and

(4) Leases of lands whereon dwelling houses, manufactories, or other permanent buildings have been erected, or whereon gardens, plantations, tanks, wells, canals, places of worship, or burning or burying grounds have been made, or wherein mines have been sunk.

It is to be remembered, however, that the protection that this law affords to the tenure-holders and the check it introduces on attempts by zamindars to utilise it as a means for enhancing rents, are much lessened through the period of limitation laid down by section 2 of Act III (B.C.) of 1862.

Tenures, under-tenures and holdings in Eastern Bengal. Dependent Taluks.

173. Between the zamindars and persons actually occupying the lands of an estate, there were, at the time of the Decennial and the Permanent Settlements, a large number of intermediate holders who paid rents fixed in perpetuity; and their number has since largely increased. Most of these tenures are known by the name of taluks. Those existing at the Decennial Settlement and not recognised as estates (independent taluks) and those created by proprietors of estates since the Settlement, the revenue payable for them not being separately recorded in the official registers of Collectors as estates or shares of estates, are said to be dependent. The holders of taluks are called Talukdars.

Those dependent taluks, which have been in existence since the Permanent Settlement, are not liable to be cancelled on the sale of an estate for arrears of revenue. They are transferable and hereditary, and their rent is not liable to enhancement, except under certain conditions.

Fixed rent tenures.

174. There are certain tenures which have existed from before the Permanent Settlement and are known as istimrari, mukarrari and maurusi tenures. Properly speaking, the first refers to the perpetual nature of the tenure, the second refers to the rent being fixed but is not necessarily hereditary; the third means that the tenure is hereditary, but implies nothing as to the fixity of rent. These distinctions are not, however, now observed, and the three terms are applied to all tenures held at a fixed rent and from generation to generation. They are protected from cancellation on the occurrence of a sale for arrears of revenue of the parent estate, if they existed at the time of the Permanent Settlement, or have been duly registered under the provisions of the Sale Law.

Miras leases of Dacca, Taluks and mirasi tenures of Tippera.

175. Miras leases (miras is derived from the same root as maurusi) are found in Dacca and some other districts of Eastern Bengal. In Tippera there is a great variety of taluks and mirasi tenures, distinguished by various names which, however, mean nothing more than that there is some condition attached to their recognition by the landlord or some special feature in their origin or terms, *e.g.*, *zimma-miras*, which means a tenure held originally by one person but made over in charge to another; '*az-mushaksi miras*' which is a tenure recognised after measurement and assessment; *taksisi taluk* which means that the landlord has reserved the right to test and measure the area and reassess it at some future date; *teshkisi taluk* which means a taluk recognised after measurement;

and *bandobasti* taluk which is a taluk granted after measurement and making out an account of expenses, allowance for malikana, etc., and determining the resulting payment as rent.

Upanchaki tenures of Rangpur.

176. In Rangpur a permanent tenure is found which is called "Upanchaki." It is a collective name for lands granted for religious services under the well known names of *debattar pirpal, chiragi, etc.* A nominal quit rent is paid for it. It is hereditary and transferable.

Patni tenures.

177. At the Permanent Settlement Government, by abdicating its position as exclusive possessor of the soil, and contenting itself with a permanent rent charge on the land, escaped thenceforward the labour and risks attendant upon detailed mufassal management. The zamindars were not slow to follow the example set them, and immediately began to dispose of their zamindaris in a similar manner. Permanent tenures, known as patni tenures, were created in large numbers, and extensive tracts were leased out on long terms. By the year 1819, permanent alienations of this kind had been so extensively effected, that they were formally legalised by Regulation VIII of that year, and means were afforded to the zamindar of recovering arrears of rent from his patnidars, almost identical with those by which the demands of Government were enforced against himself. The patni tenure had its origin in the estates of the Raja of Burdwan and is a taluk created by the zamindar to be held at a rent fixed in perpetuity by the lessee and his heirs for ever. It has been described by Field in his Digest thus: "A patni taluk is heritable; capable of being transferred by sale, gift or otherwise at the discretion of the holder, answerable for his personal debts, and subject to the process of Civil Courts in the same manner as other immoveable property. It is not liable to be cancelled for default in payment of the rent thereof, but it may be brought to sale by public auction, and the defaulting patnidar is entitled to any surplus proceeds of sale beyond the arrears of rent due thereupon. A patni talukdar is entitled to let out the lands composing his taluk in any manner most conducive to interest and any engagements entered into by such talukdar with others are legal and binding between the parties to the same, their heirs and assignees: provided, however, that no such engagement shall operate so as to prejudice the rights of the proprietor to hold the patni taluk answerable for any arrear of his rent in the state in which he granted it, and free of all incumbrances resulting from the act of his tenant, the patnidar."

Darpatnis, etc.

178. The process of sub-infeudation has not terminated with the patnidars. Lower gradations of tenures under them, called *darpatnis, sepatnis, chaharpatnis*, have been created in great numbers. These under-tenures are, like the parent tenures, permanent, transferable and heritable, and have generally the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities attached to them. Regulation VIII of 1819 affords the holders means to protect their interests in case the parent tenure is put up to sale for arrears.

Tenures based on right of reclamation.

179. There are, in Eastern Bengal, some tenures based on the right of reclamation, variously known as *jotes* in Rangpur and Western Duars of Jalpaiguri, *kowlas* in Bakarganj and Noakhali, and *chaks* in the Sundarbans.

Jotes and Jotedars in Rangpur.

180. The Rent Commission described the jotes of Rangpur as follows:—

The *raiyat*, who holds direct from the zamindar, is called a *jotedar*, and his holding is a *jote*, whatever its size, which may and does vary from one paying a rent of one rupee to one of which the rent is half a lakh. The large majority of *jotedars* have small holdings and are raiyats proper, cultivating their lands either by their own or hired labour or on the system of *adhiari* or halves. But a large number of *jotedars* have raiyats under them, who are called either *chukanidars* or *kurfa* prajas. The *chukanidars*, too, have often tenants under them, and in some cases, especially in the larger jotes, there are four or more degrees before we get to the actual cultivator. Jotes are saleable, quite irrespective of the term during which they have been held, whether *jotes* held direct from the zamindar or *chukani jotes* which are held from a *jotedar*. If a man gets a *jote* to-day he can legally transfer it by sale tomorrow. Such sales of *jotes* by registered deed or on decree of Court are of daily occurrence.

Jotedars, Chukanidars, etc., in Jalpaiguri.

181. There is a strong resemblance between the interests in land in Rangpur and those found in the Western Duars of Jalpaiguri. A jotedar there is a person who holds lands directly under Government. His holding is called a *jote*. He is a tenant with a heritable and transferable title in his holding, vested in him by his lease and by the fact of possession, with the power to transmit his title to those to whom he sublets; he has the right to re-settlement of the land included in his *jote* on the expiry of the term of his settlement, but subject to an increase of rent, should Government see fit to enhance. His title to possession of the jote is, however, always subject to the superior right of Government as proprietor to resume any portion required for public or other purposes, a proportionate abatement being made in the rental, and compensation allowed for any permanent improvements The tenant immediately below the jotedar is the *chukanidar* or *mulandar*. The rent payable by him has been fixed for

the term of his settlement. His title to his holding is heritable and transferable. He is not allowed under the provisions of the jotedar's lease to sublet the whole or any portion of his tenure under pain of immediate forfeiture of such tenure; but he is permitted to employ *adhiars*. A *chukanidar* cannot be ousted so long as he pays his rent, except by order of a competent court notwithstanding the fact that he may not have been twelve years on a *jote*.

The rights and obligations of *jotedars*, *chukanidars* and *adhiars* in the Jalpaiguri district outside of the Western Duars, and in Rangpur are regulated by the ordinary provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Khamar or private land of landlords.

182. The *khamar* or *nij-jote* of a zamindar is the land reserved by him for the subsistence of himself and his family. He either cultivates it himself by means of hired labour or leases it to tenants on short leases. No right of occupancy can be acquired in such land if it is held on a lease from year to year or on a lease for a term of years. Many tenure-holders also hold *khamar* lands in practice but these are not recognized by the law as such.

Tenures in Bakarganj.

183. Bakarganj is famous for the number of its under-tenures. In some parts of the district as many as eighteen interests in the land are found to exist inferior to that of the zamindar proprietor. These are (1) taluk, (2) nim taluk (3) osat taluk, (4) dar patni and osat taluk, (5) nim osat taluk, (6) dar nim osat taluk, (7) miras ijara, (8) etman, (9) mudafat, (10) howla or zimba, (11) osat howla, (12) nim howla, (13) osat nim howla, (14) dar osat nim howla, (15) raiyat, (16) nim raiyat, (17) osat nim raiyat, and (18) dar osat nim raiyat. In other parts are also found tenures such as shamilat taluks and raiyati interests like miras karsha, and kaim karsha. The origin of most of these taluks and howlas appears to have been a grant of a considerable tract of waste land, upon favourable terms as to rent, to some one who undertook to bring it under cultivation. The land was made over to the charge (hence the name howla) of the grantee for the purpose of reclamation. If the grant was more than he could cultivate himself he would sublet a portion, so creating tenures subordinate to his own. Such a system once begun very naturally extended, until the existing state of things has been arrived at. But it must not be supposed that the number of persons having interest in the land is equal to the number of those interests. It often happens that one and the same person holds three or four classes of rights in the same piece of ground. Thus the same person may be zamindar, talukdar, howladar and even karshadar. The position is again complicated by the introduction of the zimma or zimba system. When a tenure-holder or raiyat finds himself unable to cope with his landlord, he transfers his allegiance to a third party; or, in other words, when he is oppressed by his landlord, he seeks the protection (zimma) of some one else who is stronger. To him he sells his interest in the land and buys back from him a subordinate interest. He thus makes the zammadar responsible to the real landlord for the rent and he himself escapes the petty tyranny and exactions to which he was subject from that landlord. This system is especially common in estates whose proprietors are numerous: the tenure-holder finds himself in difficulties with so many masters and prefers to make one of them (generally the strongest) his zammadar.

Howlas and nim howlas are heritable, transferable and permanent tenures, so long as the rent is paid, but are subject to enhancement of rent.

184. The land tenures, found in Chittagong, are:—

Tenures of Chittagong.

(1) the proprietary estates of the petty zamindars, or tarafdars, who were originally the middlemen between the Central Government and the talukdars;

(2) the subordinate tenures of the talukdars who have the direct interest in the land; and

(3) the tenures of those who came in after the permanent settlement, and whose holdings are known as Noabad taluks.

185. During the turbulent times preceding the Muhammadan occupation of the district, small settlements of cultivators appear to have been formed in different directions for the purpose of reclaiming the jungle with which the district was then covered, and the clearance, which a family and its dependents made, came to be known as a *taluk*. As there was no Central Government prior to 1666 sufficiently strong to collect revenue, it is probable that none was paid at this period. As soon as the Muhammadans established themselves in the country, they took steps to collect rents from these squatters and, with this object in view, grouped the already existing taluks into estates or *tarafs*.

186. The unit of each *taraf* was the settler's clearance, and the *tarafdar* was the middleman, who collected the revenue from the *talukdars* and paid a portion of it to the Government. But, inasmuch as the bulk of the district was as yet covered with

dense forest, and what cultivation there was lay scattered about in small clearances, it followed that the *taraf* or the estate was itself only an aggregate of such scattered clearances. Such *tarafs* were usually called after the name of the original grantee; and, as the settlers were many and scattered all over the district, while the number of persons in a position to take up such grants was limited, it happened that one *tarafdar* acquired clearances in many parts of the district. And such *taluks* or collections of *taluks* changed hands from time to time by sales, so that the most powerful men got in time a large number of them into their hands. It was with these *tarafdars* or zamindars that the Permanent Settlement was concluded.

187. The *talukdars* of the present day are, many of them, the direct descendants of the original reclaimers of the soil. In permanently-settled estates, the *taluks* are held at fixed rates of rent in perpetuity, and are heritable, and transferable. Roughly speaking, the entire district is divided amongst the talukdars, most of whom cultivate personally.

188. Where, however, the holding is of any size, or where a person owns more than one, a portion is reserved as "nij-jote" (home farm), and the rest is leased to cultivators, locally called etmamdars. An etmam is like a taluk, *quaimi*, and the rent is not theoretically subject to increase; but, in practice, if a talukdar is persuaded by a new auction-purchaser or otherwise to consent to some small increase, he generally manages to get some corresponding rise in the rent payable by his etmamdar. The etmamdar is generally a cultivator, but he enjoys the same power as the talukdar of granting permanent leases to under raiyats. Hence the creation of "dar-etmams" and "quaimi raiyati," leases.

189. The term Noabad has long been used in Chittagong to denote lands in which the proprietary interest vests in the State, that is to say, all lands which have not been permanently settled. Regulation III of 1828 declared the absolute right of the Government to these Noabad lands. They were assessed with revenue, and as new lands were brought under cultivation, fresh assessments were made. Between the years 1841 and 1848 all the Noabad lands were surveyed, whether held by the squatters or encroached upon by the *tarafdars*. The lands of the estates formed in 1793 were defined and separated, and the Noabad lands were made separate taluks; but a large number was placed directly under the Collector and put under khas management. The Noabad talukdars are permanent tenure-holders within the meaning of the Bengal Tenancy Act, holding under Government as proprietors, but their revenue is subject to re-adjustment at each resettlement. The last settlement was concluded in 1899 for terms expiring in 1924 and 1925 A.D.

Raiyati tenures.

190. Lowest in the chain of sub-infeudation are the raiyats and the under raiyats. Raiyats were formerly divided into two classes, known as *khudkhast* (resident) and *paikhast* (non-resident), but, by the Bengal Tenancy Act, they have been finally classified into tenants holding at fixed rents or rates of rent, settled, occupancy and non-occupancy raiyats. Settled raiyats are those who have held any lands in a village continuously for twelve years. They have occupancy rights in all the land held by them, or which they may acquire in such a village.

The under raiyat, who is known in different localities under different names, either pays rent in cash to the raiyat under whom he holds, or gives him a share of the produce of the holding. He is liable to ejectment on the expiration of the term of the written lease, and, when holding otherwise than under a written lease, at the end of the agricultural year next following the year in which a notice to quit is served upon him by his landlord.

Revenue-free tenures.

191. The country is also dotted here and there with small plots of land held revenue-free from the time of previous Governments which are known as bahali (confirmed by British Government), lakhiraj tenures, the owners of which are liable, however, to pay local cesses of general application. The revenue-free tenures created by the British Government fall under two heads, that is—

(1) railway and other lands sold in fee-simple; and

(2) petty estates, the revenue of which has been allowed to be redeemed by the payment of their capitalised values.

Rent-free tenures or holdings.

192. Following the footsteps of Governments, the zamindars also have created rent-free tenures on their estates in favour of Brahmins for religious and other purposes, of relatives and dependents for maintenances, and of servants for services rendered. These are not recognised by the Government.

2.—*Assam.*

193. The ordinary land tenures vary considerably in different parts of Assam. Distinct systems of tenure are found in—

(1) Assam Proper, (2) Goalpara, (3) Sylhet, (4) Cachar, (5) The hill districts,

Land Tenures in Assam. Division of the subject.

while several varieties of special waste land tenures, granted by Government at different periods, exist in all the plains districts.

194. There are three main classes of ordinary tenure in the Assam Valley, exclusive of Goalpara, *viz.*, *raiyatwari*, *nisf-khirj*, and *lakhiraj*. The *raiyatwari* tenure is of the simplest character: the raiyat holds an annual or decennial lease from Government, being free to relinquish the whole or any part of his holding which is separately assessed, provided that notice is given to the revenue officers at the proper time of the year that there are no arrears of land revenue due for the land. Any waste unoccupied land may also be taken up for cultivation without notice or application, and, when so taken up, is settled with the occupant. Large areas of land are annually relinquished and taken up in this way in those parts of the valley where fluctuating cultivation is practised. These are chiefly the inundated tracts in the neighbourhood of the Brahmaputra, which comprise extensive areas of culturable waste land, covered with high grass and reeds, which can be reclaimed without difficulty. In these areas, the most profitable system of cultivation is that under which land is cropped for not more than three years in succession, usually with *ahu* rice and mustard, and is then left fallow for a term of years. Fluctuating cultivation also occurs in the thinly-peopled submontane tracts. In the intervening regions where population is more dense, and *sali* rice is grown, settled land is seldom relinquished, and in normal times, there is a steady extension of permanent cultivation with the growth of population. Prior to 1870, all *raiyatwari* lands were held on annual leases, but in that year a set of rules for the encouragement of ten-year leases was sanctioned by the Bengal Government, expressly declaring that holdings so settled should be heritable and transferable, on condition of the transfer being registered in the Deputy Commissioner's office, while holders on annual *patta* were left without any legal assurance on these points. The principle of these rules was afterwards embodied in the Land and Revenue Regulation of 1886, which confers a permanent, heritable and transferable right on persons holding land under a decennial lease, but recognises no rights beyond those expressed in the lease in the case of annual tenants. The rules of 1870 remained practically inoperative until 1883, when they were recast, and a general system of ten-year settlements was introduced in all parts of the Assam Valley, where the cultivation and occupation of land are of a permanent character. In the five districts of Assam Proper, the bulk of the more permanently-cultivated land is, therefore, now held under a periodic settlement, during the currency of which the raiyat is guaranteed against enhancement of the revenue rates. He is at liberty to relinquish the whole or any portion of his holding as stated above, and to take up new lands; while he is entitled to receive compensation from Government for any lands taken up for a public purpose. The rest of the area, where a fluctuating system of cultivation prevails, is resettled annually on the basis of actual occupation; and, if dispossessed by Government for a public purpose, the raiyat is only entitled to compensation for the value of any trees, houses, crops, etc., actually standing on the land at the time of its resumption, but not to compensation for the land itself.

Assam Proper, raiyatwari tenure.

195. The holders of *nisf-khiraj* and *lakhiraj* lands enjoy an assignment, respectively, of half and the whole of the assessable land revenue: in addition they hold their lands, in a proprietary right which is at present unfettered by any tenancy law. These tenures originated in alienations, whether of land, or of the revenue or service dues upon land, that had been made by former rulers of the country for religious and other purposes. On the lands now held as *nisf-khiraj* the last Ahom ruler, Chandra Kanta Singh, imposed a tax called *kharikatana*, of 5 annas a *pura* (equivalent to 1⅓ acres), which continued to be levied by the Burmese invaders after their conquest of the country. When Assam became British by conquest, all these grants were held to have lapsed; but Mr. Scott retained the moderate assessment which he found in force upon them, adding later on 2 annas a *pura*, so that the whole assessment came, as left by him, to 8 annas a *pura*. In 1834 the Government directed that a full enquiry should be made into all claims to hold land rent-free, as *debottar*, *dharmottar*, or on any other plea, throughout the districts of Assam. Captain Bogle was appointed to make this enquiry, subject to the control and orders of the Commissioner, Captain Jenkins.

Nisf-khiraj and lakhiraj estates.

Another officer, Captain Matthie, was also similarly employed. At the same time the following principles were laid down for the guidance of these officers :—

(1) All rights to hold land free of assessment, founded on grants by any former Government, were to be considered as cancelled; and it was pointed out that any claims for restoration to any such tenures could rest only on the indulgence of Government.

(2) All lands, found to be held in excess of what was held and possessed on *bona fide* grants prior to the Burmese conquest, or for services still performed, as well as all lands held for serviees no longer performed, were to be assessed at full rates.

(3) All lands, held on *bona fide* grants before the Burmese conquest, or for services still performed, were to be reported to Government; on receipt of the report, special orders would be issued on each case.

(4) Captain Jenkins might in his discretion suspend the orders for bringing any particular land on full rates; but he was to submit his reasons for the consideration of Government.

(5) Pending the *lakhiraj* enquiry, Mr. Scott's moderate rates were to be levied as before on all lands claimed as *lakhiraj* (whether as *debottar*, *brahmottar*, *dharmottar*, or on whatever plea) until brought under assessment at full rates, or until orders to the contrary were received from Government.

196. The work was commenced in 1834, but was not concluded till 1860, and, in the lapse of time, these orders were altogether forgotten. Instead of referring the cases, which came before him, for the orders of Government, General Jenkins dealt with them in a manner which was not authorised by his instructions. He drew a distinction between *debottar*, or temple lands, and other grants, such as *brahmottar* (personal grants to Brahmans for religious services), *dharmottar* (grants to religious communities other than temples, or for pious uses), etc. In the case of the first, when he found the grants to be *bonâ fide* and valid, he confirmed them as revenue-free, without, as he was ordered, referring the case to superior authority. In all other cases of *bonâ fide* and valid grants, he simply confirmed the grantee in possession, and directed that, as ordered in his instructions, the land should be assessed as before, *i.e.*, at Mr. Scott's favourable rates of 8 annas a *pura*, pending the final orders of Government on the whole question. Where the land held was not found to be held under a *bona fide* and valid grant, it was resumed and settled at full rates, which in those days were Re. 1 a *pura*. But no reference was ever made to Government on the conclusion of the proceedings; and thus until 1861, when the revenue rates were raised throughout Assam, the second class of lands continued to be assessed at rates which, though this was not expressly intended, were, as a matter of fact, half the rates prevailing for other lands.

197. The matter was then allowed to rest till 1872, when a long correspondence began, which was not finally closed till 1879. It was considered by the Government of India that the grantees having so long been suffered to hold at half rates, it would not be judicious to make any alteration in their status; and so General Jenkins' unauthorised action was condoned. These half-rate-holders were at that time called, equally with the revenue-free-holders, *lakhirajdars*. The term *nisf-khirajdar* was adopted in 1871, as a more accurate description of their status as landholders liable to be assessed at only half the current rates of revenue, whatever these may happen to be.

A *nisf-khirajdar* now enjoys the further privilege of holding the waste land of his estates free of revenue unless he derives a regular income from it.

Three-fourths of the total number of *nisf-khiraj* estates are situated in the district of Kamrup and date from the last period of Ahom rule, when the seat of Government had been transferred from Garhgaon to Gauhati, and the Ahom kings gave away lands wholesale with all the zeal of recent converts to Hinduism. The *lakhiraj* or *debottar* grants, on the other hand, are usually of older date, the most ancient being ascribed to kings Dharmapal and Vanamala, who are believed to have reigned about the eighth century A.D.

198. The other special tenures in Assam Proper are *chamuas*, *khats*, ten-twenties, and six-pie *lakhiraj* tenures. A *chamua* is simply a large holding under Government, the land being held at ordinary rents and the chamuadar has the privilege of paying the revenue direct into the treasury instead of through the local fiscal officer, and is granted a commission of 10 per cent. on the total demand. There is now only one such tenure in Assam. There are four *khats*, in two of which the *khatdar*

is simply in the position of the ordinary mauzadar, but in the other two, the *patta* is issued to the *khatdar*, and not to the cultivators direct. These khats are all assessed on cultivation only at ordinary *khiraj* rates. Ten-twenties are also tenures which are settled at ordinary rates, their only privilege being that when the land revenue exceeds Rs. 20, half of the total demand is remitted, but when the revenue is between Rs. 10 and Rs. 20, the remission is restricted to half of the amount by which it exceeds Rs. 10. They expire with the death of the present holders. The six-pie *lakhiraj* estates consist of nine holdings covering 2,755 acres of land, which pay a revenue of 6 pies per *bigha* of cultivated land, this being the amount of blackmail originally given by the owners to the hill tribes.

199. The *nisf-khiraj* and *lakhiraj* estates are, like the *chamuas* and *khiraj-khats* already mentioned, ordinarily cultivated by sub-tenants, who, when their superior landlord is (as is generally the case) a religious institution, are known as *paiks* or *bhakats* of the temple or *sattra*.

Goalpara.

200. What is known as the permanently-settled portion of Goalpara consists of nineteen permanently-settled estates and eight small temporarily-settled holdings. These between them cover the whole district, excluding the Eastern Duars. Nine of the nineteen permanently-settled estates are those of the border *Chaudhuris*. The remaining ten consist for the most part of lands held originally revenue-free on invalid titles, which were resumed in consequence, and settled at a *jama* fixed in perpetuity. The eight temporarily-settled estates include five *chars*, which are farmed yearly to the highest bidder. Of the remaining three, two are resumed *lakhiraj*, and the third was acquired by Government as a free gift from the zamindar.

Eastern Duars.

201. The Eastern Duars comprise five separate tracts, *viz.*, Bijni, Sidli, Chirang, Riphu, and Guma. The last three are the exclusive property of Government, and are managed on the same system as the *raiyatwari* tracts of Assam Proper, the only difference being that in all estates except one cultivation is entirely on annual leases, and that the revenue rates are lower than those prevailing in Assam. Bijni and Sidli, with the exception of the submontane forests which have been excluded from them and brought under conservancy, are the estates of the Rajas of the same names. The Sidli estate is under the management of the Court of Wards, but the Bijni Duars was settled with the Rani for ten years in 1901, at a revenue of 80 per cent. of the estimated rental of the estate in that year.

Sylhet.

202. The land tenures in the district of Sylhet (excluding Jaintia, which was not annexed to the district until 1835) present a remarkable contrast to those of all the districts of the permanently-settled Eastern Bengal, except Chittagong. In no other district was the permanent settlement preceded, as in these, by a survey; in no other district were the zamindars passed over at that settlement in favour of the superior raiyats or middlemen called *mirasdars* or talukdars* (*cf.* the Chittagong tarafdars). The consequence of the survey is that all lands within the surveyed portion of the district which were settled in 1791-92, the date of the decennial settlement, and have not since been specially settled in perpetuity, are the property of Government and held under temporary settlement. The result of the settlement having been made with a large number of middlemen is that, while in the districts of permanently-settled Eastern Bengal estates are counted by tens or hundreds, in Sylhet they are counted by thousands, and the individual revenue of each estate is generally very small. Thus Sylhet is distinguished (1) by the large proportion of its area which is not permanently settled, and (2) by the extremely small payments of revenue due from individual estates, which make the collection (in the absence of *mufassal* revenue establishments entertained nowhere in permanently-settled districts) a peculiarly difficult and complicated task.

Permanently-settled tenures.

203. The permanently-settled tenures of Sylhet are all held on the same conditions, but have received the names given below with reference to their revenue history:

(1) *Dassana*, estates included in the decennial settlement of 1791-92, which in 1793 became permanent.

(2) *Bazyafti Daimi*, lands resumed by the Special Commissioner appointed under Regulation III of 1828, and then permanently settled.

(3) *Ilam* lands settled permanently (see below under temporarily-settled estates).

(4) *Khas Daimi*, permanently-settled estates purchased by Government at sales for arrears of revenue and sold again as permanently-settled.

* The above statement does not apply to (1) parganas Taraf, Bamai, and Putijuri, forming zila Laskarpur in the Habiganj subdivision, which were transferred to Sylhet from the Dacca and Mymensingh districts after the assessment for the decennial settlement had been effected, and (2) certain parganas in the Sunamganj subdivision which could not be surveyed on account of difficulties with the Khasis. In other parts of Sylhet also the settlement was occasionally made with the zamindars, and not with the raiyats.

(5) *Halabadi.*—The term *halabadi* literally means "recently cultivated," but in Sylhet it is applied to all lands not included in the decennial settlement of 1791-92. The so-called *halabadi* (also known as *abadi* or *jangal abadi*), *pattas* or *sanads* were granted between the years 1791 and 1807. They contained no express limitation of the term of settlement, and in 1869 were held by Government to have been settlements in perpetuity.

(6) *Khas halabadi*, estates belonging to class (5) which, having been bought in by Government at sales for arrears of revenue, have been resettled permanently.

(7) *Permanently-settled waste land grants.*—The proprietors of three *halabadi* estates paying a revenue of Rs. 9-5-3 claimed a large tract in the Raghunandan Hills. Their claims were compromised by the grant in perpetuity of two estates covering an area of 1,659 acres and paying a revenue of Rs. 9-6-0.

(8) *Dhali Mujrai mahals*, exempted from assessment on condition of the holders furnishing *dhali* servants for the Sylhet Collectorate. At present two such servants are furnished.

Temporarily-settled tenures.

264. The temporarily-settled estates of Sylhet are also known under different names, but by far the most extensive class, excluding the Jaintia parganas referred to in the next paragraph, is that called *ilam*. In consequence of the success met with in Behar in bringing under assessment land not included in the decennial settlement which afterwards became permanent, the *pargana patwaris* were, in 1802, directed to prepare and submit schedules of land in their respective *parganas* which had not been included in that settlement. On receipt of these schedules, the Collector issued proclamations (*ilams*) inviting claimants to any of the lands to come forward; but no one appeared to claim them. These lands have thus acquired the names of *ilam* or proclaimed lands. During the years 1829 to 1834, these *ilam* lands were surveyed, and in 1835, those that were found cultivated were settled with the occupants if willing to engage; otherwise they were farmed. The term of the first settlement was ten years for cultivated and fifteen years for jungle lands, and it was subsequently renewed on its expiry for successive further periods. In 1869, a systematic survey was commenced, and revised rules of settlement and a form of *patta* were drawn out. These rules were again revised in 1875 and modified in 1876. The resettlement commenced in 1871, and was practically concluded in 1881. On resettlement, all waste lands, in excess of one-fifth of the cultivated area of an estate, were, as a rule, excluded from the settlement. In order to protect the rights of Government in these excluded lands, and to prevent encroachment by the neighbouring permanent settlement-holders, a special form of farming lease was sanctioned in 1889. The settlement of *ilam* estates under the rules of 1869—1876 was made so as to expire on different dates, but with the exception of certain estates, which were settled with tea planters on special terms and the Pratabgarh tenures to be mentioned subsequently, all *ilam* leases in the district had run out by the 31st March 1896. The leases were, however, extended pending the completion of resettlement operations undertaken in that year, till the 1st of April 1902, from which date the ordinary *ilam* lands have been resettled on leases for 20 years.

The *raiyatwari* tract of Pratabgarh in the south of the Karimganj subdivision, comprising an area of 36 square miles, was originally composed of *ilam* estates, which were settled with bodies of cultivators in 1875—1878. The settlement, however, broke down as the lessees were men of little substance, who quarrelled among themselves, and a *raiyatwari* settlement was made in 1882-83 for five years. This settlement expired in 1887, but was extended from year to year pending a fresh survey, which was not completed till 1893. Another five years' settlement was then made, which expired in 1898, but was extended till the 1st April 1902, when the tract was settled for 20 years along with the ordinary *ilam* estates.

So much of the *ilam* area, as was not included in the settlements of 1835 and subsequent years, has been entered in the waste land register as waste at the disposal of Government; much of it has been taken up by tea planters on the waste land tenures to be hereafter described.

The rest of the temporarily-settled area in Sylhet, outside the Jaintia parganas, falls apart into two divisions: first, the small tenures settled on the same principle as *ilam* lands, but different in their origin; and, secondly, the areas held *khas* by Government, in which, instead of making over definitely the use and occupancy of the land to a settlement-holder who may eventually become a middleman, the Government

has retained the management in its own hands, and deals directly with the cultivators. The first class is technically known by the following names:—

(1) *Nankar patwarigari.*—Lands formerly held by the *pargana patwaris* as *nankar*, *i.e.*, in lieu of salary. The *patwaris* were abolished in 1833, and the lands were ordered to be assessed in 1835.

(2) *Char bharat.*—Alluvial accretions, which in Sylhet all belong to the State.

(3) *Bil-bharat.*—The silted-up beds of *bils*, which were excluded from the permanent settlement because they were then useless.

(4) *Ijad.*—Surplus lands discovered after the permanent settlement (but not formally proclaimed as the *ilam* lands were), and thus not included in it.

(5) *Resumed revenue-free land.*—Resumed because found to be held on invalid titles.

The *khas* lands in Sylhet are, for the most part, former *ilam* estates, the settlement of which has for various reasons broken down. In some cases the holders as a body refused to accept resettlement with joint responsibility; other estates have been bought in by Government at sales for arrears of revenue; in other cases, again, the settlement has been cancelled for default in payment of revenue. These estates are managed upon principles similar in general to the *raiyatwari* settlement of Assam proper. Certain fixed rates are laid down, and raiyats are free to take up land when they please at those rates, after application to the tahsildar.

In addition to the above, the term "*khas*" includes also petty permanently-settled estates of little value, bought in by Government at sales for arrears of revenue and not resettled in perpetuity.

Estates in classes (1) to (5) were settled under orders issued in a Resolution of the Government of Bengal in 1871. The settlements were made so as to expire on different dates, the latest extending till the year 1907. Those estates of which the settlement had expired before the 1st April 1902 were resettled for 20 years from the date along with the *ilam* estates, and some others, whose term expired in 1903 to 1905 were settled in 1904 on the same principles.

Jaintia parganas.

205. The Jaintia parganas have, since they first came under British rule, been temporarily settled.* The first regular settlement was made in 1838—40, when the tract was professionally surveyed and measured. It was made for a term of five years, at the end of which it was further extended for ten years, and then again extended, so that the settlement of the whole area expired in 1856. In that year the tract was resettled, without remeasurement, for twenty years. This settlement expired in 1876, but revised rates were not imposed till 1879, and the settlement, then made, remained in force till 1898, when the parganas were resettled for a term of 15 years.

Lakhiraj estates.

206. Besides these permanently and temporarily-settled estates in Sylhet, there are, as in other districts, valid *lakhiraj* or revenue-free estates. There are in all 11,489 revenue-free estates, with an area of 41,914 acres including—

(1) One hundred and seventy-eight grants, which were declared valid after resumption proceedings under Regulations II of 1819 and III of 1828.

(2) Six thousand three hundred and forty-five petty grants, mostly under 10 *bighas* in area, which were exempted from assessment under order of the Bengal Government in 1841.

(3) *Kasba Sylhet.*—These estates are nominally all less than 10 *bighas* in extent, but many, as a matter of fact, greatly exceed this area. This anomaly probably originated through fraud, but it is hard, if not impossible, to rectify it now. Resumption proceedings were initiated many years ago, but the cases were struck off for no apparent reason. The number of these estates has been returned as 2,554, with an area of 4,560 acres.†

(4) Two thousand four hundred and twelve redeemed estates, consisting of *ilam* estates paying a revenue of Re. 1 and under, which were sold at auction revenue-free, and other estates redeemed on payment of twenty or twenty-five times the annual revenue.

Cachar.

207. When Cachar was annexed in 1830, Government stepped into the position of the Raja as absolute owner of the soil. The great bulk of the land is held either (1) revenue-free under fee-simple and commuted grants taken up for special

* With the exception of 33 permanently-settled and 29 revenue-free estates. The former consist of lands claimed as revenue-free, but resumed by the Special Commissioner appointed under Bengal Regulation III of 1828 and subsequently permanently settled.

† These figures, which are taken from a *chitha* drawn up by a former Collector for the purpose of assessing chaukidari-tax, are only approximate.

cultivation, or (2) on *jangalburi* or waste land reclamation leases for periods of 20 or 30 years at progressive rates, or (3) at ordinary rates on what was formerly known as the *mirasdari* tenure, under which bodies of men often of different castes and religions combined together to break up waste land for which they received an *ijmali patta*, imposing upon them joint responsibility for the revenue. This system of joint ownership was found, however, to be a source of inconvenience to the settlement-holders, as well as to the Government, and at the resettlement of the district, which was effected in 1900 for a term of 15 years, these co-parcenary *mahals* were broken up and separate leases were issued to the individual settlement-holders.

There are a few *lakhiraj* or revenue-free estates in Cachar, being the grants held by dependents of the old royal family, or dating from the time of native rule. These are known as *baksha* lands, and are revenue-free only so long as they remain in possession of the grantee and his heirs; when alienated, they are liable to assessment like other *mirasdari* lands. Considerable areas are also held for special cultivation under the old Waste Land Rules, the Rules of 1876, and Section I of the Settlement Rules.

Hill districts.

208. In the hill districts there is no land revenue settlement properly so called, except in a few isolated tracts. The strip of plains land, which encloses the Garo Hills on three sides, is managed on the system of settlement which obtains in Assam proper, save in one portion, where the zamindars of Mechpara hold certain land as part of their permanently-settled estates, and manage it themselves. The terms of tenure are similar to those of the annual *patta*-holders of Assam. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, a class of land known as *rajhali* in the Jaintia Hills subdivision, has since the year 1886 been assessed to land revenue under special rules, the rate charged being 10 annas per *bigha*. In the rest of these districts, Government does not assess the land, but the houses. Each village, however, in the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia, and Naga Hills has its own known lands, in which rights of private ownership are recognised to a degree which seems surprising in so primitive a state of society. The system of cultivation by *jhum*, which prevails throughout the greater part of this area, demands long periods of rest during which the land becomes reclothed with forest; and it is often difficult to believe that what seems an uncared-for wilderness is really the jealously-guarded private property of a clan, family, or village. But the case is so; and no quarrels have been more enduring or more bitter among these people than those relating to land. The customs of land tenure among these primitive races are often strangely complicated and full of interest; but they have as yet been insufficiently explored, and it is impossible to describe them at length here. The practice of taxing houses, instead of assessing the land, prevails also in certain remote parts of the plains districts, such as the North Cachar subdivision and the Mikir Hills in Nowgong, while from the Miris in Lakhimpur and the Tipperas in Sylhet a poll-tax is collected in lieu of land revenue.

3.—*Provincial.*

Court of Wards.

209. The management of the landed properties of minors who become the wards of Government and of adults who are incapacitated for the management of their own affairs is governed by the Court of Wards Act, IX (B. C.) of 1879, as amended by Acts III of 1881 and IV of 1892. The Court of Wards was originally established for the security of the Government revenue, but Government interference on this score is no longer necessary, and the principal business of the revenue officers, who now take charge of wards' estates, is by acting the part of good and prudent landlords to serve as models to other proprietors and protectors to their own tenants to extricate the estates from any difficulties into which they may have fallen and to employ any surplus income in improving the estates and the conditions of the tenantry. The Court accordingly encourage expenditure on the provision of medical relief and primary education to the raiyats, on irrigation works, agricultural experiments, village sanitation, hâts or markets and advances to cultivators.

Rates.

To meet the cost of management and supervision a general rate is levied from all estates under section 3 of Act X of 1892. This rate is at present $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the annual gross income of the estates. A special audit rate of $\frac{7}{10}$th per cent. is levied under section 4 of the same Act on estates with a rent and cess demand of Rs. 50,000 and upwards to meet the cost of extra establishment required for auditing the accounts. Also under the same section, the payment of fees on a prescribed scale has been made obligatory on all estates for all legal business done for them by the Legal Remembrancer.

SYSTEM OF SURVEY.

Demarcation or that best survey.

210. Almost the whole of this province has been surveyed so as to show the boundaries of each village and estate; but till recently there was no field measurement except in a few limited tracts. There was a demarcation department, whose business it was to define the boundaries of villages and estates and to make a compass-and-chain survey of them. The main object of this *mahalwar* survey was to secure the existing revenue by determining the boundaries of estates (*mahals*) each of which is hypothecated for a certain amount of revenue. Maps were prepared from this survey for the permanently-settled tracts of the province: the ordinary scale is 16 inches to the mile.

The Revenue or village survey.

211. The demarcation was followed by a professional survey, with the object of making a scientific survey of the village boundaries and accounting for each acre of land and preparing a map (usually on the scale of 4 inches to the mile), showing the geographical and topographical features of the country. The whole of the work, both of the demarcation and the professional survey, was carried out at the expense of Government, although the Government derived no additional revenue and no direct advantage from the process. The surveyors, in making the survey of the village boundaries, were guided by the marks put up at time of demarcation at every bend and turn of the boundary. Unfortunately, there were no permanent marks round the boundaries of the villages or estates in Bengal, and no provision then existed for compelling landholders to set them up and keep them in order. The consequence has been that the marks have been obliterated and the use of the survey has for practical purpose been greatly impaired.

Other Professional surveys.

212. A survey party, organised in 1879-1880 for the purpose of relaying on the ground the boundaries of villages on the banks of the Ganges from Kushtia to Dakhin Shahbazpur, which were subject to fluvial action since the last survey, broke ground in the northern part of the Faridpur district between the Chanda river and Goalundo, and extended its operations down to Bunderkhola, 25 miles below Faridpur. Simultaneously operations were carried on along the left bank from Dowlatpur, on the Mymensingh boundary, to a point some miles below Bunderkhola. In 1880-1881 a survey was also made of the Jamuna river from Goalundo to the great trigonometrical station Bangaon, a distance of 20 miles.

213. A cadastral survey, based on a regular professional traverse of the portions of the Assam Valley where most cultivation was to be found, was commenced in 1883 and completed in 1893, and similar cadastral surveys of the raiyatwari portions of Sylhet and Cachar have been effected for resettlement purposes in subsequent years. The field maps of these surveys are on the scale of 16 inches to a mile. While the cadastral survey of a portion of the Assam Valley districts was in progress, the opportunity was taken to train the local mandals in surveying with the plane-table, and, after the professional party had left the valley, certain additional areas were surveyed cadastrally by local agency on the basis of plane-table traverses in successive years. It was subsequently decided that all such extension surveys should be made on the basis of theodolite traverses, and since 1899 a permanent professional survey detachment has been maintained in Assam, which is charged with the duty of preparing traverses for further cadastral surveys which the extension of cultivation may necessitate, as well as with correcting and bringing up to date the topographical details in the standard district maps, and with minor survey operations undertaken in the province which require professional skill. The officers in charge of the detachment also supervise the maintenance of cadastral maps. Wherever an area has been brought under cadastral survey, arrangements have been made for having the maps and other records kept as far as possible up to date and permanent marks looked after by the agency of mandals in the Brahmaputra Valley and patwaris in the Surma Valley.

SYSTEM OF SETTLEMENT.

214. In Eastern Bengal, as already observed, the general settlement is permanent, but a portion of the revenue is derived from lands which are under temporary settlement. In Assam, however, the reverse is the case. Only a small part of the country is permanently-settled, but the rest is Government property. The following tracts in the province are, therefore, liable to assessment or re-assessment and settlement of land revenue:—

(1) Practically the whole of Assam.

(2) Estates and tenures in Eastern Bengal settled temporarily with proprietors.

(3) Other lands in Eastern Bengal not included in any permanently-settled estate, such as—

(*a*) Waste lands.

(*b*) Alluvial accretions and island chars.

(*c*) Resumed revenue-free lands.

(*d*) Escheated and forfeited estates.

(*e*) Estates purchased by Government at sales for arrears of revenue.

Government estates.

215. The general principle, under which Government estates in Eastern Bengal are kept under direct management, has thus been described in the Report on the Land System in Bengal, Behar and Orissa of 1882-1883:—

"Estates coming into the hands of Government were originally either permanently settled or sold outright. This policy was changed in 1871, in which year it was ordered that temporary settlements only should be allowed, and that, where sales appeared to be expedient, the estates should be first settled for terms of years and then sold subject to a revision of the Government revenue on the expiration of the terms of settlement.

The above procedure, however, seemed to be of questionable legality, and in 1875 the Government, at the suggestion of the Board of Revenue, ruled that an estate should be considered as suitable for direct management—

(1) if it was of sufficient extent and cultivation to support a tahsildari establishment;

(2) if, though not yielding a revenue sufficient to cover such expense, there was a reasonable expectation that its gross rent could be increased by improvements, extended cultivation, or otherwise, to that amount;

(3) if, though not sufficient in extent or rental alone to find employment, or funds, for a separate establishment, it was so situated as to be capable of being incorporated with one or more similar Government estates, so as to form a compact tahsildari circle;

and that smaller isolated estates might still be retained under direct management, if their situation near the headquarters of a district or a subdivision was such as to allow of their proper supervision by the Government officers. Smaller estates, not admitting of such supervision, were to be sold after survey and settlement, in which the rights of all classes of cultivators were to be recorded, and the estates, so sold, were to be transferred to their new proprietors with the revenue fixed in perpetuity.

From the end of 1877 until Sir Rivers Thompson took up the question, the policy of selling Government estates, which could not be advantageously managed, was not actively prosecuted. Owing to a representation made by the Board, the Government, in 1886, directed that all Government estates with a rental of over Re. 1 should be sold with that rent permanently settled, and that estates with a rental of Re. 1 or less should be sold revenue free.

In 1891 the question of keeping Government estates under direct management was re-opened by the Government, with the result that in December 1894 the Board recommended the sale of a large number of Government estates. These recommendations, which were generally in accord with those made by the local officers, were based on the following principles:—

(*a*) large compact estates, capable of supporting a tahsildari establishment, and of being efficiently managed, or which had not been fully developed, were to be retained;

(*b*) town lands, or lands in urban tracts, in which the revenue was likely to increase shortly, or which might be required by Government hereafter, and which were easy to manage, were not to be sold;

(*c*) estates largely subject to alluvion or diluvion were to be retained;

(*d*) petty estates, and estates which are scattered or fully developed, should be sold;

(*e*) Government shares in joint undivided estates should be sold;

(*f*) the estates in which the cost of management was out of proportion to the demand should be sold.

With regard to the terms on which estates should be sold, the Board proposed, in accordance with the Government orders of 1886, that—

(1) Estates which pay a rent or revenue of Re. 1 or less should be sold revenue free at an upset price of ten times the rent or revenue; and

(2) estates paying more than Re. 1 as rent should ordinarily be sold at an upset price of twice the rent, at a revenue fixed in perpetuity, equal to the amount of the present rent. This rule is not, however, to be made applicable to estates in temporarily-settled districts.

It was also proposed that a survey and record-of-rights of tenants should usually precede the sale of a Government estate, but that, in the case of small estates, or fractional shares of undivided estates, or where a survey had once been made, the preparation of such a record should not be obligatory. The Board's proposals were accepted by the Government. Farming is adopted only in exceptional cases, usually when direct management is impracticable, or distinctly disadvantageous to Government, and after the rights, rents, and position of the raiyats have been fully secured and protected."

216 The following are the general rules which have been prescribed for the guidance of the Revenue officers in making settlements:—

I.—No estate of any kind (save those described in the next following clause) is to be settled in perpetuity without the express sanction of Government in each case, unless the holders have a statutory right to such settlement.

II.—Very petty estates which, though well cultivated, pay less than one rupee land revenue per annum may be sold revenue free for ever, being put up at an upset price of ten times the annual *jama*, or sold by special bargain to the cultivator in possession at not less than the above rate.

III.—Alluvial accretions to private estates should be settled separately for a term of years, each accretion with the estate-holder to whom it may belong.

IV.—No settlement or re-settlement should be concluded without first making a survey or revision of survey and a complete record-of-rights of the whole estate.

V.—Ordinarily Government estates should, as existing leases or other arrangements fall in, be settled for a long term of years (*a*) with the people on the ground, tenure-holders or village headmen, or raiyats where this can be done, or (*b*) with a farmer, but this only in very exceptional cases.

VI.—Until the survey and record-of-rights necessary to a resettlement can be completed, existing leases may be extended from year to year.

Subject to these conditions it is now the rule that Government estates should, as far as possible, be retained under direct management, so that the officers of Government may be enabled to gain a practical knowledge of the progress of agriculture, of the extent to which the productive powers of the land have been developed, and of the increased money value of the produce. It is hoped that the result will be a system of enlightened management which will become a model for imitation by zamindars throughout the province.

The modes of management are:—

(1) by officers of Government, such as Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collectors, kanungos, and nazirs, as part of their ordinary work, without extra remuneration;

(2) by special managers, with the assistance of situable collecting establishments;

(3) by ordinary tahsildari establishments, working under the Collector, Deputy Collector, or Sub-Deputy Collector, as the case may be;

(4) by special tahsildari establishments, under the direct supervision of the Collector.

Of these, the system adopted in Chittagong, corresponding to the tahsildari system of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, is the most deserving of notice. The chief features of the scheme, which was devised after much consideration and discussion by Government and the Board, and which eventually received the approval of the Secretary of State, are as follows:—The *noabad* taluks, numbering about 35,000, and jotes which are scattered all over the district, are parcelled out into five circles. The division is adopted with reference to geographical limits and facility of communication by land and water. The circles are, therefore, of unequal proportions. Each circle is in the charge of a khas tahsildar who is either a Deputy

or Sub-Deputy Collector. At present they are employed in the collection of rent, disposal of certificate and *noabad* taluk land registration cases, and general management work. Their services can also be utilized for general administrative work in this district. Management under a system of this kind results not merely in strengthening the hold of Government over the district, but also in effecting a large saving of expenditure, since no outsider would consent to manage these estates for what it now costs Government.

Grant for the management and improvement of Government estates.

217. An annual allotment of 12 per cent. of the collections in Government estates is made by the Government for management and improvement of such estates, and, under present arrangements, is distributed as follows:—1 per cent. is given to the Director of Public Instruction for purposes of education in or near the estates: $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is made over to the District Boards for roads and communications: and $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is allotted to the Board of Revenue for (*a*) management proper, and (*b*) for agricultural, sanitary and miscellaneous improvements in the estates. A further grant, originally intended for public works of an agricultural nature, is made annually to the Board of Revenue which is utilized in improvements generally.

The Settlement Regulations in khas mahal and temporarily-settled estates.

218. The settlement and adjustment of rent of these Government estates were regulated by the procedure laid down in Regulation VII, 1822. The main object of the Regulation was to "revise, through the agency of the Collectors, or Settlement Officers, the jama payable to Government after a full enquiry into, and careful settlement of, the rights and interests of all classes connected with the land," but the requirements laid down by this Regulation were never carried out satisfactorily. Considerable difficulty was felt in "ascertaining the amount of the jama payable by raiyats in any mahal under settlement on an ascertainment of the quality and value of actual produce, or on a comparison between the cost of production and the value of produce." Accordingly, by Regulation IX of 1833, the principle of assessment, based on customary rent, was adopted. The basis of calculation was the rate of the rent actually paid by a large class of tenants, or the rent paid for land of similar description and under similar circumtances in places adjacent. But the principle was not long adhered to, and the value and capabilities of land began again to be taken into consideration since 1837.

These Regulations are still in force throughout Eastern Bengal, and contain the law for all matters connected with the settlement of land revenue, but they do not permit of the fixing of fair rents, unless by agreement. The law for the settlement of rents is contained in the tenth chapter of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The rules and procedure therein laid down are more exact and efficacious than those of the Regulations, and are, as a matter of practice, generally followed even in settlements of Government estates, firstly, because they provide for the making of a record-of-rights and a settlement of fair rents which shall be binding on the raiyats; and secondly, because it is rarely possible to enhance the revenue without enhancing the rents. Settlements in Government and temporarily-settled estates are made periodically, but the terms of settlement vary where the land is settled direct with occupancy raiyats No enchancement can be made within 15 years. In temporarily-settled estates the settlement-holder pays as revenue the gross rental determined to be the fair rental less a certain percentage (generally 20 per cent.) for collection expenses and profit.

Chittagong.

219. The operations in Chittagong have been on a scale of importance sufficient to warrant detailed notice. The cultivated lands of the Chittagong district were first measured in 1764. The assessments upon the area thus ascertained were declared permanent by the Regulation I of 1793. In 1797 it was discovered that the owners of a large estate had attempted, by a forged deed, to usurp possession of all lands excluded from the original measurement. The upshot of the long correspondence and litigation which followed, extending over no less than 40 years, was a regular temporary settlement of all the cultivated lands of Chittagong not already permanently settled.

The first step was an exact definition of all the lands to which the zamindars were entitled by virtue of the measurement of 1764 and the terms of the permanent settlement; as also of all revenue-free tenures, whether valid or invalid. The remainder was considered as *noabad* land. The expression *noabad* properly means newly cultivated land. In Chittagong it means all land not measured in the original mesurement of 1764, or, in other words, all land which was lying waste and in nobody's possession at the time of the measurement. This land is the property of Government. In the settlement of 1848, concluded by Sir Henry Ricketts, every *noabad* holding was made into a separate tenure or taluk and assessed without reference to any permanently-settled land which might be held along with it. The maximum rate of assessment was Rs. 2-4-6 an acre. This rate was reduced wherever

circumstances made a lighter assessment necessary. The average rate on the 460,000 acres assessed (cultivation and waste together) was Re. 1-11 per acre, giving a total revenue of Rs. 2,00,826. At the time of settlement the Government demand was estimated to be equivalent to 16 per cent. on the value of gross produce.

At the same time lakhiraj or revenue-free tenures were investigated, and lands, held on invalid tenures, were resumed. Their assessment amounted to only Rs. 75,605. Certain other lakhiraj lands had been compounded for at Re. 1-1-9 per acre, subsequently reduced to Re. 0-13-9 per acre, and these yielded Rs. 13,708. The area of all lakhiraj lands, resumed and revenue-free, including waste, was 111,223 acres.

Adding together the assessments imposed on *noabad* and lakhiraj lands, the total increase to the revenue of the district, effected by the settlement of Sir Henry Ricketts, would appear to have been Rs. 2,90,169. No less than 89,389 separate settlements were made, 79,587 of which related to new mahals, lakhiraj or *noabad*, mostly of minute size, and intermingled with each other and with permanently-settled lands in a most complicated manner.

On the introduction of the settlement, leases were given to "circle farmers," who were to receive a commission on the revenue collected by them from the petty estates of their circles; but this, on the expiry of the terms, was replaced by a system of khas management.

The *noabad* holdings, in which the proportion of jungle was very small or *nil*, were settled for 50 years; while those in which the proportion of jungle was considerable, were settled for 25 years only. On the expiry of this term, the resettlement of these taluks was undertaken in 1875. The former Government revenue of these 25-year taluks had been Rs. 43,898 and this was raised by new settlement to Rs. 1,41,801. The cost of the operations was 3¼ lakhs of rupees, and the proceedings occupied seven years in completion. The term of resettlement of these 25-year taluks was fixed so as to terminate in 1898, that being the year in which the settlement of the 50-year *noabad* taluks expired.

The previous settlement of the lands in Old Thana Ramu having expired, a survey and record-of-rights under the Bengal Tenancy Act was begun in 1888. At first merely Government lands were dealt with, but subsequently all the lands in the thana were included within the scheme. During the assessment in this area the status of a *noabad* talukdar was determined to be that of a tenure-holder.

220. With a view to provide for the re-adjustment of the Government revenue on the expiry of the existing settlements, and also to remove the uncertainty regarding boundaries which existed in private estates, notifications under section 101 (1) of the Bengal Tenancy Act dealing with the rest of the district of Chittagong, thana by thana, with the exception of the permanently-settled lands in the island of Moiscal, were issued on various dates beginning from 1889. The proceedings thereby instituted were completed throughout the district in 1898, the cost incurred being Rs. 16,16,204. The total area of the district is 2,492 square miles, of which 2,003 square miles were surveyed, the remainder consisting of forests, waste land lots and one large permanently-settled estate. The revenue of the temporarily-settled portion of the district, not including the estate Noabad Taraf Joynarain Ghosal, was increased from Rs. 3,85,210 to Rs. 6,00,537. Of the gross increase of revenue amounting to Rs. 2,16,793 (not deducting decreases), Rs. 1,50,019 were obtained from talukdars, Rs. 3,405 from farmers and Rs. 63,369 from raiyats paying rent direct to Government. The following statement exhibits the increase in rent-rates per acre produced by the settlement :—

	Former rate.	New rate.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Talukdars (tenure-holders)	2 0 0	2 13 0
Ijaradars (farmers)	1 12 0	2 9 0
Under-tenure-holders	3 4 0	3 9 0
Settled raiyats	4 14 0	5 0 0
Occupancy raiyats	2 15 0	3 2 0
Non-occupancy rayiats	2 11 0	2 12 0
Under-raiyats	5 8 0	5 13 0

The settlement was confirmed by the Government of India for a period of thirty years.

The *noabad* talukdars were the most important class of tenants found upon the Government estates. They are tenure-holders, who hold directly under the Government as landlord for terms of years. At the expiry of such term, the talukdar is entitled to resettlement of such portion of his taluk as is cultivated, and at such rent as Government may fix. The total number of taluks settled during the recent

operations was 36,666. Of these, 32,601 taluks had been settled in or about 1848 for terms of 50 years, 1,873 had been settled at the same time for shorter terms and re-settled in 1882, while 192 were new taluks which were created during the recent settlement. The method, followed in settling the rents of these taluks, was to ascertain the rental of their raiyats, and, after adding to this sum, the annual rent valuation of any lands in the direct occupation of the talukdar, to fix the new rent at such percentage of these assets as seemed equitable. In the case of 32,601 taluks first mentioned, the assets were fixed at Rs. 4,86,031, and the rents of the talukdars were settled at Rs. 2,86,353. The balance of Rs. 1,99,658, or 41 per cent. of the assets, represents the profit left to the talukdars. In numerous instances, however, a portion of these profits was intercepted by under-tenure-holders, who occupied the position of middlemen between the talukdar and the actual cultivators. The rents of all these under-tenure-holders were settled, as in the case of the talukdars, at a percentage of the assets of the under-tenure, calculated as above described. If, then, a talukdar had sublet his entire taluk to an under-tenure-holder, who in his turn had sublet to raiyats for an aggregate rental of Rs. 100, the under-tenure-holder's right might be settled at Rs. 85 and the talukdar's at Rs. 60. In that case the actual profit which would reach the talukdar would be Rs. 25.

As the result of the settlement in the case of these 32,601 talukdars, the talukdars actually receive Rs. 4,44,230; the balance of Rs. 41,801 being absorbed by under-tenure-holders.

The rents of farmers were fixed on the same principles. The rents of raiyats were but little enhanced, though additional rents were imposed on increased areas.

In the case of large enhancements, liberal terms were allowed, the rents being gradually enhanced.

The result of the settlement was to enhance the rents of talukdars by 65 per cent., of farmers by 10 per cent., of under-tenure-holders by 33 per cent., of settled raiyats by 17 per cent., of occupancy raiyats by 7 per cent., and of under-raiyats by 10 per cent.

Western Duars.

221. The Western Duars of Jalpaiguri were obtained by conquest from Bhutan in 1864, and the first settlement of them was made for 7 years in 1872 at a cost of Rs. 42,822, resulting in a net increase of revenue of Rs. 33,196 on a total area, including forests, etc., of about 1,636 square miles. In the course of an enquiry in 1874, during the settlement of South Maynaguri, it was found that the maps were inaccurate, the records untrustworthy, and that nothing but a revision of the whole settlement would suffice. A re-survey and settlement was, therefore, ordered at the close of 1875, and carried out at a cost of Rs. 1,16,520. The total area of the Duars was found to be 1,913 square miles, and the total rental was then fixed at Rs. 1,51,862. This sum was, however, subsequently reduced by Rs. 17,800, owing to certain errors in assessment. In 1885 it was decided that at the next settlement a more detailed examination of all the facts relating to each holding should be made.

The previous settlement having expired in 1890, a fresh settlement was concluded under the provisions of the Bhutan Duars Act, XVI of 1869. Work was commenced in 1888 and completed in 1895. The tract measures 1,210 square miles, exclusive of tea lands and forest lands, which were not dealt with at this settlement. Out of this area, 421 square miles were surveyed on the scale of 2 inches=1 mile, and the remaining 789 square miles were cadastrally surveyed on the 16-inch scale. The tract comprises 9,971 jotes, or blocks of land, held by tenants under the Government, 17 blocks occupied as markets, one revenue-free block, and 1,079 waste land blocks which were not assessed. The assessment of the 9,971 jotes brought an increase of Rs. 1,40,902 over the last assessment, which amounted to Rs. 2,33,999. A miscellaneous revenue is also derived from fluctuating sources, which amounted in 1893-1894 to Rs. 39,556. The total cropped area was found to be 206,838 acres, on 80 per cent. of which rice is grown. The operations cost Rs. 5,07,325, which gives an acreage charge of 11 annas 11 pies. The term of settlement was fixed at 15 years from 1893-1894. This term being nearly over, a re-survey has been begun with a view to the re-adjusment of the assessment.

Jalpur Government estates.

222. The Jaipur estates in Bogra were surveyed and settled in 1893—1898. The aggregate area of the estates is 44 square miles, and is comprised in 153 villages. The cultivated area is 21,307 acres, of which 7,869 are twice cropped. Nearly 60 per cent. of the cropped area is occupied by rice. The rental was increased from Rs. 39,872 to Rs. 51,068, or by 28 per cent., on the ground of extension of cultivation and rise in the price of agricultural staples. The average rate of rent is Rs. 2-7-6 per acre. The settlement has been concluded for a term of 20 years. The total expenditure was Rs. 46,124, or at the rate of Re. 1-5-4 per acre.

223. In addition to the areas already mentioned, many petty Government and private estates lying in Tippera, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Noakhali, and Rangpur have been cadastrally surveyed and settled.

Petty settlements. Assam Proper.

224. The nature of the *raiyatwari* tenure in the Assam Valley has already been described. Estates, held on annual lease, are resettled every year, and the annual relinquishment and taking up of land in tracts, where fluctuating cultivation prevails, necessitates a somewhat elaborate annual revision of settlement, on the accuracy of which depends the correct assessment of the land revenue demand. The periodic settlements undergo no alteration during the length of their term, save such as may be caused by the raiyat's relinquishing some fields of his holding. Every new settlement, whether annual or periodic, is preceded by measurement, which, like the assessment, is effected by the mandals under the supervision of the Sub Deputy-Collector who is responsible for the assessment while the mauzadar is responsible for the collection of the demand. The average gross area of a mandal's circle is nearly 8 square miles.

Measurement

225. The bulk of the cultivated area in the Assam Valley has been cadastrally surveyed on the scale of 16 inches to a mile, and, where this is the case, all new fields are regularly surveyed and plotted on the cadastral sheets by the mandals, old and permanent cultivation being distinguished from land newly taken up by the use of different coloured lines. In tracts, which have not yet come under survey, areas are estimated by measuring up the four sides of each field with a 30-foot chain and multiplying together the mean length and breadth thus ascertained. The registers in which the results of the measurements are recorded are two in number—a field register or *dagchitha* and a *jamabandi* or revenue roll. The former shows the number borne by each field, the raiyat's name, the area and class of soil; in non-cadastral tracts the boundaries and dimensions are also entered. The *jamabandi* is a record of the fields constituting each raiyat's holdings, their area, soil class and assessment. Separate *jamabandis* are maintained for lands held on annual, and lands held on periodic, leases. In the annual measurement of new lands and revision of settlement papers the mandals are controlled by the Sub-Deputy Collectors and supervisor kanungos, each of whom has under his charge a number of mandals' circles varying from one to thirty.

Assessment.

226. In the five upper districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, the soil is divided into three main classes or descriptions,—*basti*, *rupit*, and *faringati*. The first mentioned is the land on which the raiyat's house stands, with the garden enclosure around it; *rupit* land is land which ordinarily grows *bao* or any species of transplanted rice; the term *faringati* is applied to all land not falling within either of the two former classes, and includes land growing *ahu* or summer rice, sugarcane, mustard, and other crops.

Until 1893 no attempt had been made to proceed further in the direction of classification. Advantage was then taken of the expiry of the decennial leases to revise the assessment; and, while securing to Government a share of the increased value of the produce, to introduce a more equitable system of classification. The main descriptions of soil already mentioned were divided into four classes, the revenue payable on each being as follows:—

	First class.	Second class.	Third class.	Fourth class.	
	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	Rs. a.	
Basti ...	1 6	1 4	1 2	1 0	per *bigha*.*
Rupit ...	1 0	0 14	0 12	0 10	per ,,
Faringati ...	0 12	0 10	0 9	0 8	per ,,

Tea land held on *raiyatwari* tenure was assessed at uniform rates fixed for each district, which vary from 9 to 12 annas a *bigha*.

The resettlement of the whole of Assam Proper was effected in a single season and made no pretence to scientific accuracy. The main consideration taken into account was the demand for land in a village as shown by the density of population and the proportion of settled to total area. All land of the same description in a village was placed in the same class, this rough method of assessment being justified on the ground that the rates were low, and could be borne by the worst lands in a village without difficulty. The settlement of the five upper districts of the valley was concluded for ten years from the 1st April 1893, all existing decennial leases being renewed for that term. During the currency of the settlement all lands newly taken up were assessed according to their description at the rates fixed for the village. The settlement of lands taken up on permanent (periodic) tenure was made so as to expire on the same date as the general decennial settlement. A detailed resettlement of the districts, on principles

* *A bigha* contains 14,400 square feet; 3·025 *bighas*=1 acre.

similar to those which are followed in other provinces of India, has been completed in the case of Kamrup and Sibsagar, and is in progress in the districts of Darrang and Nowgong. A more minute classification of lands, according to the productive capacity of the soil, is being made, and the assessments are being revised on what is known as the soil unit system devised by Sir Bampfylde Fuller. The term of the new settlements in Kamrup and Sibsagar has been fixed at twenty years.

In the Eastern Duars no attempt had yet been made to go beyond the old three-fold classification of *basti*, *rupit*, and *faringati*. The rates, current in that tract, are for *basti* and *rupit* 8 annas, and for *faringati* 4 annas per *bigha*, except in the Guma mauza where the fourth-class village rates shown above are imposed.

Settlement statement.

227. The settlement year begins on the 1st April, and the Sub-Deputy Collector is responsible for seeing that the settlement registers are submitted to the Deputy Commissioner (or in subdivisions to the Subdivisional Officer) on the date fixed by them (usually about July). The accuracy of the assessments is checked in the Deputy Commissioner's office, and a settlement statement is then prepared and submitted to the Commissioner for confirmation.

This annual revision of settlement is called the main or regular settlement of the year, and includes all lands taken up for cultivation in the first half of the year to which it relates. A supplementary settlement, however, is needed, in order to assess rice land taken up after the mandal has returned from the field, and the lands which are broken up for oil-seeds and pulses in September and October, when the floods subside. The measurements for this purpose are conducted during the winter months; the papers of the *dariabadi* or supplementary settlement are filed before the close of the financial year; and the settlements are reported to the Commissioner for confirmation in the same manner as the main settlements concluded in the July preceding. In the following year these *dariabadi* lands come into the main settlement.

The revenue is ordinarily payable in two instalments of three-fifths on 15th January and two-fifths on the 15th February; but in villages which pay their land revenue or a considerable portion of their land revenue by the production and sale of mustard or pulse, and in the case of *dariabadi* lands, which are settled too late for the January instalment, the whole year's revenue is payable on the 15th March* in one instalment.

Sylhet.

228. In Sylhet the temporarily-settled portions, as already explained, consist of the Jaintia parganas and the *ilam* and other miscellaneous *mahals* not included in the permanent settlement.

The history of the Jaintia settlement has already been partly given. In 1838—1840 a cadastral or professional *khasra* survey was made of these parganas, and the maps of this survey formed the basis, with additional surveys by amins where fresh land had been taken up, of the resettlement made in 1856. At this settlement, the rates of assessment were determined on local enquiry by the Settlement Officer and his subordinates, according to the nature of the soil and its capabilities. The rates varied from 2 annas 6 pie to Re. 1-0-3 per acre; but these rates were pitched extremely low in consequence of the successful opposition of the cultivators to the imposition of any higher assessment.

This settlement expired in 1876; but, owing to errors in the classification and assessment of the land, the new settlement was not finally completed until 1882 and terminated ten years later. The parganas were then surveyed and resettled for a term of 15 years with effect from April 1898, the date to which the former settlement had been extended. The assessment was made on principles somewhat similar to those adopted in the Assam Valley resettlement, villages being divided into five grades and land into four main classes, *i.e.*, *basti* or homestead and garden, the rate per *bigha* on which varied from 14 to 4 annas, rice land assessed at from 10 to 4 annas, cultivation other than rice at 8 to 4 annas, and waste at 2 to 1 anna per *bigha*. Tea land was assessed at the uniform rate of 10 annas a *bigha*.

Ilam and miscellaneous temporarily-settled estates.

229. The resettlement of *ilam* and other miscellaneous temporarily-settled estates in Sylhet carried out in the years 1871—1881, has been referred to above. Before settlement, the lands were measured with chain and compass by amins, a plan of each estate on the scale of 16 inches to the mile was prepared, and the area was calculated in both *bighas* and acres. Their measurements were tested by the Settlement Deputy Collector. The rates of assessment were not independently determined with reference to the advantages of situation or fertilty of the soil, but were fixed in each case by the Settlement Officer with reference to the rates paid by cultivators for similar lands in the neighbourhood. From these rates, a deduction of 15 per cent. was

* In certain mauzas, where the cultivation of mustard is considerable, the whole revenue is payable in one instalment, on the 15th February.

made to cover cost of collection and risks, and the remainder was fixed as the assessment of the *mahals*. On the expiry of the ordinary *ilam* leases in 1896, these estates, with other temporarily-settled estates the terms of which had expired, and certain tracts of *khas* land were resurveyed and reclassified on a different principle. Where the areas dealt with were of sufficient extent to admit of a regular traverse, they were traversed with the theodolite, and then surveyed cadastrally in blocks of convenient size, while the small detached estates scattered over the district, which it was not worth while to include in the traverse, were left to be surveyed independently with the plane-table. The lands, coming under resettlement, were classified according to four main descriptions, *viz.*, homestead, rice land, tea land, land growing crops other than rice and tea, and waste, and the whole area was distributed in four circles with reference to general considerations, such as liability to inundation, climate, facilities of communication, and proximity to markets. Within each circle the lands of each description were subdivided into classes with reference to broad differences of intrinsic quality. The rates assessed varied from 6 pies a *bigha* for waste to 14 annas for homestead and produced an enhancement of 46 per cent., chiefly owing to large extensions of cultivation.

Pratabgarh tahsil.

230. The *raiyatwari* tract of Pratabgarh was cadastrally surveyed for the purposes of the resettlement effected in 1893. On its expiry no resurvey was made, but the tract was reclassified on the same principles as the rest of the *ilam* area. As it was found that the raiyats had difficulty in paying their revenue at the existing rates, a reduction was made, the rates fixed varying from 2 annas a *bigha* for waste to Re. 1 for first-class homestead, as compared with 4 annas and Re. 1-2 under the preceding settlement.

Cachar.

231. The first regular settlement of Cachar was made in 1838-39 for a term of five years, and was based on a somewhat imperfect survey. In 1841-42 the district was surveyed on the same plan as the adjacent Jaintia parganas. The cultivated land in the several mauzas was surveyed, field by field, and so much of the uncultivated area as seemed likely to come under cultivation was also surveyed and divided into numbered *dags* or plots, the intention being that, as cultivation extended, these plots should afford the means of determining its site and a basis for a detailed map of its area. In 1843-1844 a resettlement, based upon this survey, was made for fifteen years. Then followed the settlement of 1859, made for twenty years, which expired in 1879. This also was based on the survey of 1841-1842, and only land, broken up since that year, was measured up by amins. The land was divided into two classes, called *awwal* and *duam*, respectively; and within these classes it was ranged, according to situation, distance from navigable rivers, and exposure to the ravages of wild beasts, in four grades. The local measure of land in Cachar is the *hal* or plough (also called by the Arabic name *kalbah*), which is equal to 4·82 acres; and the rates imposed varied from Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 3 0 per *hal* for first-grade land to Rs. 2 to Rs. 1-8 for fourth grade. Waste land, producing thatching-grass and reeds, which are valuable products in the densely-peopled Surma Valley, was settled at the full rates of revenue charged for cultivated land in the neighbourhood. Forest jungle, which required much clearing, was settled for three years revenue free, and then at a progressive *jama*, rising to the full rates, charged for adjacent lands, at the end of the term, twenty years.

Settlement for fifteen years in 1878-1894.

232. On the expiry of this settlement, a fresh survey was made, and a settlement was effected for fifteen years, which extended up to 31st March 1898. For the purpose of this settlement the three fiscal divisions, known as the Katigora tahsil, the Hailakandi tahsil, and the sadar tahsil, were dealt with separately. In each tahsil the soil was divided into four classes, *viz.*, homestead, cultivation, tea, and waste, and the lands of each class were again grouped in four circles, the constitution of the circles being based on a consideration of the productiveness of the soil, the facility or otherwise of communication, the liability to inundation, the exposure to the ravages of wild animals, and the proximity to dense forests.

The rates fixed at this assessment varied from Rs. 8-4 to Rs. 4-12 per *hal* for homestead land, from Rs. 7-2 to Rs. 3-12 for cultivation, and from Rs. 7-2 to Rs. 6-0 for tea. Waste was assessed at a uniform rate of Re. 1 per *hal*.

The district was resurveyed in the seasons 1893—1897 and, in April 1900, was resettled for a further term of 15 years.

The method of classification, adopted for the purpose of reassessment, was more discriminating than that employed at previous settlements. Instead of a rough classification of villages, an attempt was made to assign land to classes according to quality, and to recognise broad differences in the value of land within the village. Rice lands were distributed into five classes, homestead and ordinary cultivation other than rice,

into four each, and settled waste into two, while tea land was treated as a separate class, and assessed at a uniform rate The rates of assessment, which were approved by the Government of India, resulted in the enhancement of the demand of the area coming under resettlement from Rs. 3,07,624 to Rs. 4,51,568, or by 46·80 per cent. In the greater part of the district, however, the whole of this enhancement was not brought into force at once. In all villages in which the total increase amounted to 33 per cent. or upwards, it will be reached by progressive instalments, spread over 12 years in the case of villages which have been raised from the third or fourth to the first class, or in which the assessment at the maximum rates sanctioned will exceed double of the present assessment, and over 8 years in other cases.

Operations, permanently-settled estates.

233. It should be observed that, even where no re-assessment of land revenue is possible, *i.e.*, in permanently-settled districts, some of the operations of a settlement may require to be carried out. The Local Government, with the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, may order a survey and a record-of-rights to be prepared for all lands in any local area. Without the supreme sanction, such orders can be issued in cases where a large proportion of either landlords or tenants desire it, and deposit the amount (or security for the amount) of expenses, as directed by the Local Government; or where such a proceeding is calculated to settle or avert a serious dispute between landlords and tenants; or where the estate is being managed by the Court of Wards. Of the areas where such operations have been carried out within recent years, the most important *chakla* Roshnabad estates belonging to the Raja of Hill Tippera in Tippera and Noakhali. These estates have an area of 558 square miles, comprised in 1,510 villages. The survey and settlement was carried out under section 101(2) (*a*) of the Bengal Tenancy Act during the years 1892 to 1900. Of the total area, about 400 square miles are cultivated and 40 square miles are culturable waste, and the rest is made up of unculturable waste and water. Rice is grown on four-fifths of the cultivated area. There are no less than 17 different classes of rent-paying tenures and temporary leases. Nearly 76 per cent. of the total area is held by settled and occupancy raiyats. The average rates of rent vary between Rs. 3-5-4 and Rs. 3-10-4 per acre. By the settlement the rental was increased from Rs. 5,84,189 to Rs. 6,75,848, or by 15·69 per cent. Of this increase Rs. 59,312 were obtained from tenants holding lands directly under the proprietor on the ground of excess area and a rise in prices, and Rs. 32,347 from tenure-holders by raising the proportion of the assets payable by them from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. The total cost of the operations amounted to Rs. 5,28,000 and gives an acreage charge of Re. 1-8. Operations are now going on in the districts of Bakarganj, Faridpur, and Jalpaiguri.

Surveys and settlements of new alluvial lands.

234. The surveys of Ganges alluvion and diluvion, in accordance with the provisions of Act IX of 1847, were commenced in the Patna Division about 1863, and brought to a close in the Rajshahi Division in 1871-1872. The operations were afterwards continued in the Dacca Division. The object of the law was to obviate the effects of the changes constantly going on in the banks of rivers and adjacent lands. By these changes large portions of land are often washed away—sometimes suddenly, sometimes by slow degrees—from one side of a river, while an accession of land takes place on the other side. It was thought advisable, for the security of the land revenue, that some provision should be made for allowing to a proprietor, whose estate had suffered diluvion, an abatement of revenue corresponding to the extent of his loss, and, on the other hand, for assessing the proprietor, whose estate had gained land, with an additional revenue, proportionate to the amount of his gain. The law accordingly enacts that in districts, of which a revenue survey has already been made, Government may, whenever ten years may have elapsed from the date of approval of such survey, have a new survey made of lands on the banks of the rivers with a view to ascertain the extent of the changes since the last survey. Having ascertained, by inspection of the survey map, which estates have lost and which gained land, corresponding abatements from, and additions to, the revenue, assessed on the estates respectively losing and gaining are to be made.

The settlements made were formerly permanent, except when the proprietors of some of them refused to take the engagement, in which case the lands were let in farm for periods of from three to ten years; but latterly, orders have been issued by Government prohibiting further permanent settlements, and temporary settlements are made.

In the course of the six years, 1877-1878 to 1882-1883, the banks of the chief rivers of Eastern Bengal, namely, the Ganges and Meghna, with their principal branches down to the Bay of Bengal, the Dhaleshwari, the Brahmaputra, and the southern portion of the Jamuna, were surveyed. The total area of the tracts of the country

thus surveyed in Dacca, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Tippera, Noakhali, and Mymensingh, was 5,682·74 square miles at a total expenditure of Rs. 1,59,430. The cost per square mile of country surveyed was therefore Rs. 28-6-10. This survey was made in the same scientific manner as the survey conducted by the Revenue Survey Department, and the accuracy of the work was tested by connections made with 18 Tower stations of the Great Trigonometrical Survey.

The total area of the land added to the estates since the survey of the districts, ascertained by a comparison of the new maps with those of the previous survey, was nearly 479 square miles. Out of this area, 597 estates, measuring 237 square miles, were assessed and settled under the provisions of section 6, Act IX of 1847, yielding an annual revenue of Rs. 1,18,905 including malikana. In 113 cases, 57 square miles, with a rental of Rs. 45,084, were left unassessed under orders passed in appeal by the Commissioner or the Board; 184 square miles were left unassessed as being (1) less than 10 acres, (2) accretions to temporarily-settled estates which were not liable to assessment until the settlements of the estates expired, (3) washed away between survey and settlement, and (4) included in estates sold or permanently settled by Government on a revised assessment since the first survey of the districts, and therefore not liable to reassessment.

Waste lands.

235 In the Assam Valley and Cachar, in the Terai at the foot of the Himalyas, on the uplands behind Chittagong, and in the Bakarganj portion of the Sundarbans, or the jungle tract between the cultivated district and the Bay of Bengal, there are large wastes which belong to Government. The following is an account of the special terms under which waste land grants are held in various parts of the province.

The first special grant rules were those of the 6th of March 1838, and related to Assam proper only. No grant was to be made of a less extent than 100 acres, or of a greater extent than 10,000 acres. One-fourth of the entire area was to be under cultivation by the expiration of the fifth year from the date of grant, on failure of which the whole grant was liable to resumption. One-fourth of the grant was to be held in perpetuity revenue-free. On the remaining three-fourths no revenue was to be assessed for the first five years if the land was under grass, ten years if under reeds and high grass, and twenty years if under forest; at the expiry of this term, revenue was to be assessed at 9 annas per acre for the next three years, after which the rate was to be for twenty-two years Re. 1-2 an acre. At the close of this period (the thirtieth year in the case of grants of grass lands, thirty-fifth in the case of reed lands, and forty-fifth in the case of forest lands), the three-fourths liable to assessment were to be assessed, at the option of the grantee, either at the market value of one-fourth of the produce of the land, or at the average rate of revenue paid by rice lands in the district where the grant was situated; the revenue was thereafter to be adjusted in the same manner at the end of every term of twenty-one years. Very few grants under these rules exist at present.

The next rules were those for leasehold grants of the 23rd of October 1854, commonly called the Old Assam Rules. Under these rules, no grant was to be less than 500 acres in extent (afterwards reduced to 200 acres, or even 100 acres in special cases). One-fourth of the grant was exempted from assessment in perpetuity, and the remaining three-fourths were granted revenue-free for fifteen years, to be assessed thereafter at 3 annas an acre for ten years, and at 6 annas an acre for seventy-four years more, making a whole term of ninety-nine years; after which the grant was to be subject to resurvey and settlement "at such moderate assessment as might seem proper to the Government of the day, the proprietary right remaining with the grantee's representatives under the conditions generally applicable to the owners of the estates not permanently settled." One-eighth of the grant was to be cleared and rendered fit for cultivation in five years, one-fourth in ten years, one-half in twenty years, and three-fourths by the expiration of the thirtieth year; and the entire grant was declared to be liable to resumption in case of the non-fulfilment of these conditions. The grants were transferable, subject to registration of transfer in the Deputy Commissioner's office. These rules were extended to Sylhet and Cachar in 1856, and were in force until 1861, when they were superseded by rules for grants in fee-simple, which at the same time allowed holders of leasehold grants under the prior rules to redeem their revenue payments, on condition that the stipulated area had been duly cleared, at twenty years' purchase of the revenue at the time payable. This permission is still in force, and has been largely taken advantage of. Two hundred and seventy-one grants, with an area of 288,206 acres, have thus been redeemed, and 36 grants, with an area of 35,151 acres (most of which are in Cachar), remain upon the original terms.

To these succeeded a new policy, that of disposing of land in fee-simple. The first fee-simple rules were those issued by Lord Canning in October 1861. The Secretary of State took objection to some of their provisions, and a fresh set of rules was issued on the 30th August 1862. The rules, issued by Lord Canning, provided for the disposal of the land to the applicant at fixed rates, ranging from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 5 per acre. The rules of August 1862 provided that the lot should be put up to auction. Grants were to be limited, except under special circumstances, to an area of 3,000 acres. In each case the grant was ordinarily to be compact, including no more than one tract of land in a ring fence. The upset price was to be not less than Rs. 2-8 an acre, and, in exceptional localities, it might be as high as Rs. 10. Provision was made for the survey of lands previous to sale, and for the demarcation of proper boundaries, where applicants for unsurveyed lands were, for special reasons, put in possession prior to survey, and also for the protection of proprietary or occupancy rights in the lands applied for. The purchase-money was to be paid either at once or by instalments. In the latter case, a portion of the purchase-money, not less than 10 per cent., was to be paid at the time of sale, and the balance within ten years of that date, with interest at 10 per cent. per annum on the portion remaining unpaid. Default of payment of interest of purchase-money rendered the grant liable to re-sale.

These rules were in force till August 1872, when the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal stopped further grants under them, pending revision of the rules.

Revised fee-simple rules were issued in February 1874, which raised the upset price of land sold to Rs. 8 per acre, and made more careful provision for accurate identification of the land, and for consideration of existing rights and claims, before its disposal. Those rules continued in force till April 1876.

There now exist in the province 322 fee-simple grants (excluding redeemed lease-hold grants already mentioned), covering an area of 58,130 bighas.

The existing special rules under which applications for waste lands for the cultivation of tea, coffee, and other produce which is not included among the ordinary staples of the province and which require a considerable expenditure of capital, are dealt with in Assam, were originally issued in April 1876, and were revised and re-issued under sections 12 and 29 of the Land and Revenue Regulation in 1887. The land is leased (for thirty years) at progressive rates and the lease is put up for auction sale, but only among applicants prior to its advertisement in the Gazette, at an upset price of Re. 1 per acre, under the provisions of Act XXIII of 1863. The progressive rates are as follows :—

For the first two years	...	...	...	revenue-free.
„ next four „	...	...	...	3 annas an acre.
„ „ four „	...	...	...	6 „ „
„ „ ten „	...	...	...	8 „ „
„ „ ten „	...	...	...	1 rupee „

After the expiration of the last mentioned term, the land is to be assessed under the laws in force, "provided that no portion of the said land shall at any time be assessed at a rate higher than that then payable on the most highly-assessed lands in the said district, cultivated with rice, pulses, or other ordinary agricultural produce." The grantee is required to pay the revenue punctually on the due date; to devote the land only to the special crops for the cultivation of which it is granted;* personally to reside in the district, or have an agent residing there; to erect, and maintain in repair, proper boundary marks; not voluntarily to alienate any portion of the land, unless the estate is transferred as a whole; and to give notice to the Deputy Commissioner of all such transfers. On breach of any of these conditions, the concession of the favourable rates of assessment on which the land is held is liable to be withdrawn, and the estate to be assessed at the ordinary district rates. Settlement is no longer made under these rules in Sylhet or in the plains portion of the Cachar district.

Mention should here be made of a special tenure, compounded of the lease under the rules of April 1876 and the terms on which *ilam* land is held in the district, on which certain tea planters have been allowed to hold land for tea in South Sylhet. When the *ilam* resettlement was in progress in this district, it was found that several planters had recently acquired considerable areas of waste land held under *ilam pattas*. One of the rules of the *ilam* settlement was that waste land within the boundaries of the *patta*, which exceeded the proportion of one-fifth of the cultivated area, should be cut off and resumed by Government. But it was precisely in order to obtain this waste land

* Under executive orders the clause in the lease, requiring the previous permission of the Deputy Commissioner before the land included in the lease is used for ordinary cultivation, is not enforced so long as the main purpose, to which the estate is put, is special cultivation.

that tea planters had acquired the *ilam pattas*. A compromise was, therefore, made in 1879. The land already under tea was assessed at Re. 1-8 per acre; of the waste, an area, equal to one-fifth of the cultivated area, was allowed at 8 annas an acre; and the rest permitted to be held on the terms and at the rates specified in the Waste Land Rules of 1876. The settlement of these estates, known as "Modified *ilam*" estates, was made so as to expire on different dates, the latest terminating in the year 1903. Those estates, of which the leases had already run out, were re-settled with the other *ilam* estates for 20 years from the 1st April 1902.

Eastern Bengal.

236. Upon the formation of the Chief Commissionership of Assam, the revised fee-simple rules, issued in February 1874, remained inoperative in the districts of Eastern Bengal in which there were waste lands, the terms having failed to attract applicants. Eventually, in May 1879, the sale rules were withdrawn, and the only rules, now in force in that portion of the province, are those under which waste lands are leased for certain terms of years. Waste lands, capable of being leased, exist in the Western Duars of Jalpaiguri, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Chittagong, Bakarganj and Sundarbans. There are two classes of lease rules:—

(1) Those for larger capitalists wishing to grow special crops, as tea, coffee, etc.; and

(2) Those for small capitalists for ordinary cultivation.

Jalpaiguri.

237. The main features of the rules of the first of the two classes above mentioned applicable to Jalpaiguri are the following:—

Declared forest reserves and land having valuable timber in compact blocks, land in which other rights exist, lands lying within 60 feet from the centre of any public roads and lands expressly exempted by Government, are not to be granted. Each lot must be compact, and not contain ordinarily more than 1,500 acres. On special grounds, however, the Commissioner may sanction grants up to 1,800 acres, the Board of Revenue up to 3,000, while grants in excess of the latter limit require the sanction of Government. In all cases the applicant must give evidence or guarantees that he has, at his command, sufficient capital to enable him to open out the grant. The holder of a grant can apply for a second grant if he can satisfy the Deputy Commissioner and superior revenue authorities that he has, at his command, sufficient capital to warrant the concession, and if he has fulfilled all the conditions attaching to his existing grant. Tea lease-holders may obtain arable grants contiguous to their tea lots. Inquiry and survey, at the expense of the applicant, must ordinarily precede the grant of a lease. A preliminary five-years' lease is granted rent-free for the first year, and at progressive rents for the rest of the term. The rights conveyed are heritable and transferable, provided that the whole lot is transferred, that clearance conditions are duly observed, that a transfer fee has been paid, that the transferee has *bona fide* at his command sufficient capital to enable him to cultivate the grant, and that the transfer is registered in the Deputy Commissioner's office within one month of the registration of the deed of transfer. The right of the Government to minerals and quarries, and to payment for valuable trees on the grant, and the right of the public to fisheries, and a right of way along the banks of the navigable streams are reserved, while provision is made for public access to springs of water on the lands leased, when necessary to insure a supply to persons residing in the vicinity, for the construction and maintenance of proper boundary marks, for the presence of the lessee himself or of a resident manager on the grant, for reports of births and deaths of residents on the area granted, for information as to the progress and outturn of cultivation, for the acquisition by Government of any land required for public purposes free of cost, except by proportionate reduction in the rent and by the payment of the value of any improvements in the land taken up, and for dealing with excess lands found in the possession of the lessee. In the event of the provisions of the Chaukidari Act being enforced in any tea garden, the lessee is bound to furnish accommodation for the residence of the chaukidar, and to see that he receives his pay punctually. Grantees can club or amalgamate their grants by transfers, duly registered, on payment of the prescribed fee. But no isolated grant can be amalgamated with other grants lying more than two miles away from it. Government reserves the right to exclude any particular area from the operation of the rules and to sell grants in that area by auction. If, after inspection during the terms of the preliminary lease, 15 per cent. of the total area shall have been brought under cultivation and actually bears tea plants, the lessee is entitled to a renewal for a term of 30 years, and to similar renewals in perpetuity, provided that Government may fix the rent on certain specified conditions on each renewal; that the renewed lease be heritable and transferable in whole or in part with due sanction and after proper registry; and that all the other

conditions of the preliminary lease hold good. Failure to comply with any of the conditions renders the lessee liable to forfeiture of his lease; and failure to comply with the clearance conditions of his preliminary lease reduces him, if he is allowed to continue, to the status of a tenant-at-will, the term of grace being limited to three years, within which, if he clears 15 per cent. of the total area, he may obtain a renewed lease.

The second class of rules for small capitalists, as applicable to the Duars, were published on the 16th May 1888, and correspond in the main with the rules for the grant of leases for tea cultivation. The differences are briefly these. Ordinarily the lot must not be less than 10 acres or contain more than 200 acres, but exceptions may be made up to a maximum of 400 acres. The survey fee is to be three annas an acre, and no further sum will be demanded except the actual cost of fixing the boundary, clearing and surveying it, and putting up boundary marks, while, in the case of tea leases, the fee is fixed at one rupee an acre, and the applicant, if the expense exceed the deposit, has to make good the deficiency. Grants under these rules are heritable and transferable. Tea may not be cultivated on the area covered by the lease if that area exceeds 200 acres. No clubbing or amalgamation of grants is allowed, and all land bearing tea will be forfeited to Government if more than one grant becomes the property of the same owner except by inheritance. Renewal of the preliminary lease is conditional on one-half of the total area held being occupied by homesteads, or cultivated or left fallow, according to good husbandry, or otherwise fairly turned to account for agricultural purposes. The periods of renewals are to be conterminous with the period of settlement in the pargana, current at the time of renewal. Subinfeudation in the first degree only is allowable. The sub-tenant is, however, to have from the lessee the same promise of renewal as the lessee himself has from Government, and the sub-tenant's rent is to be determined by the Deputy Commissioner. Failure to apply for renewal before the expiration of the preliminary lease reduces the lessee to the status of a tenant-at-will till other arrangements are made. Rates of rent on renewal of the lease have been fixed both in the case of tea leases and of leases of arable lands. Where half the area of the grant of the arable land has not been brought under cultivation, the renewed lease shall ordinarily include an area of waste land equal to the extent of land brought under cultivation during the currency of the preliminary lease, but in such cases the Deputy Commissioner has the power, under certain restrictions, of refusing renewal altogether, or of allowing it on special conditions. Each description of land, tea, bastu, bambu, rupit, faringhati and waste, is charged at the rate fixed in pargana where it is situated, provided that in the case of tea leases the total rent, payable under the renewed lease, shall not be less than 12 annas an acre on the entire area of the land leased, and, in the case of arable leases, not less than eight annas an acre. Also as regards these latter leases, the rent on each occasion of renewal shall not, without the special order of Government, exceed double the rent previously paid.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

238. The grant of leases for tea cultivation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts used to be made under a set of rules based on tea lease rules in force in the Jalpaiguri district and published on the 30th of June 1879. In 1900, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation was passed, and a set of rules for the administration of the Hill Tracts were published. These rules supersede those previously in force and under them the Hill Tracts are divided into three circles, and these again into mauzas. The Bahmong Chakma and Mong chiefs are charged with the administration of the three circles, while headmen, who are appointed by the Superintendent of the Hill Tracts, in consultation with the chiefs and the inhabitants of the mauzas, collect rents under the control and authority of the circle chiefs.

The rules allow the gazetted officers of Government, the chiefs and the headmen to grant to any suitable person wishing to open plough cultivation, the requisite authority to do so, specifying the terms. The rents for non-agricultural sites, excepting those for bazars, are fixed by the Superintendent. In every mauza, 50 acres of the best arable land in one block, or in area or areas as nearly approaching 50 acres as may be practicable, are demarcated, and set apart as the khas land of Government for the remuneration of village officials. All lands, held for plough cultivation on lease from Government, are subject to the condition that they cannot be sub-let or transferred, except on hereditary succession, or with the consent of the Commissioner. Grass *kholas* and *garjan kholas* in the Hill Tracts are settled by the Superintendent either yearly or for periods of not more than ten years in any case.

Chittagong.

239. There are no rules for leases to large capitalists in this district. For small capitalists, the waste lands used to be broken up into compact blocks of 50 acres each, and the lease of each lot sold by public competition. There was no restriction as to the

kind of crops that might be grown. The whole of the waste lands were not thrown open at once for sale, but the leases of the surplus waste land blocks in one village at a time used to be put up to auction on a given day. These rules proved inoperative and a revised set of rules was published by Government in Notification No. 2250 L.R., dated 30th April 1895.

In a deltaic tract, large and compact areas must be leased to admit of economical embanking. To avoid interference with the operations of the Forest Department, no large unculturable tract and no lands, surrounded by hills or proposed for enforestation, should be included in the lease. No land within 60 feet from either side of a District Board road should be settled. The persons, admitted to settlement, must be substantial men, and, when several persons of equal merit apply for the same area, it may be put up to auction and settled with the highest bidder. When the area requires embanking on an extensive scale, a joint lease may be given to a number of substantial persons. The term of settlement will expire at the same time as the Noabad taluki settlement of the thana in which the lands are situate. The rates are to be fixed with reference to the initial expense of bringing the lands under cultivation, the quality of the lands, the charge for repairs of embankments, etc. If a survey is necessary, the applicant must deposit a sum not exceeding 4 annas per acre, and, if the cost of survey exceeds that rate, he has to pay the balance. The leases are heritable and transferable. The other provisions generally follow the rules for the grant of tea leases in Jalpaiguri so far as they are applicable.

240. The Sundarbans Lease Rules of 1853 were virtually superseded by the several sets of sale rules issued since 1862; but as these latter proved inoperative, transactions used now and again to take place under the rules of 1853. A revised set of lease rules for large capitalists was published in 1879. Bakarganj Sundarbans.

These differed from the rules of 1853 in providing a rent-free period of only ten years, and in laying down only one clearance condition, *viz.*, that one-eighth of the entire grant should be rendered fit for cultivation at the end of the fifth year. This condition might be enforced either by forfeiture of the grant, or by the issue of a fresh lease, omitting the remainder of the rent-free period, and requiring payment of rent at enhanced rates during the term of the grant. The rules also provided for gradually increasing rates of assessment after the expiration of the rent-free period, and for varying rates within different tracts according to the rent-paying capabilities of the land. It was further provided that there should be constantly recurring renewals of the lease on resettlement. The term of the original lease was fixed at forty years, and resettlements were to be made after periods of thirty years, maximum rates being laid down for each resettlement.

The limits, within which lands might be leased, were fixed in consultation with the Forest Department. An accurate definition of boundaries was provided for. The maximum area of grants was restricted to 5,000 bighas, the minimum being 200. Cultivation must not be scattered all over the area of the land, but was to proceed regularly through the blocks. Leases were to be sold at an upset price of Re. 1 an acre when there was only one applicant, and to the highest bidder when there were more than one.

The leases conferred an occupancy right, hereditary and transferable. Survey fees were payable by the applicant at the rate of 4 annas an acre, as also a deposit of Rs. 16 for notices to objectors. Refunds and adjustments of fees deposited were permitted. Rights of way and water and other easements were reserved. The right of using all streams in any way navigable, and the use of a towpath not less than 25 feet wide on each side of every such stream, were also reserved to the public; while Government reserve to itself the right to all minerals in the land, together with rights of way and other reasonable facilities for working, getting at, and carrying away such minerals. No charge was made for timber on the land at the time it was leased, nor for any cut or burnt to effect clearances or used on the land; but a duty was levied on any exported for sale.

Amalnamas for plots of lands below 200 bighas used to be given to small settlers guaranteeing them a formal lease for 30 years if the lands were brought under cultivation within two years. The 30 years lease allowed a rent-free term of two years with progressive rates of rent on the cultivated area, fixed with reference to rates paid, in the neighbourhood by raiyats to landholders for similar lands.

If available, an area of unreclaimed land equal to the cultivated area was included in the lease, and in addition, the lessee could bring under cultivation any quantity of land adjoining his holding which he might find *bona fide* unoccupied. The holding was liable to measurement every five years, and all cultivated land in excess of the area

originally assessed could be assessed at the same rate. After 30 years renewed leases could be given for 30 years' periods, and rates of assessment could be adjusted at each renewal with reference to rates then prevailing in the neighbourhood. The tenure was heritable and transferable, provided that notice of transfer was given to the Sundarbans' Commissioner within one month, and no holding was to be divided without his permission. No charge was made for wood and timber on the grant, nor for any cut or burnt in making clearances, or used on the land; but a duty was levied on any exported for sale. These rules did not work well, and the Bakarganj portion of the Sundarbans was, therefore, transferred in 1904-1905 from the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of the Sundarbans whose post was abolished, to that of the District Collector, and, under Government orders, a system of raiyatwari settlements has replaced the lease to large and small capitalists. A set of rules bodying the orders of Government and superseding the rules in sections II, III and IV of the Waste Land Manual, 1898, so far as the Bakarganj Sundarbans is concerned, is in course of publication.

General Administrative divisions.

241. The unit of administration in Eastern Bengal and Assam is, as has already been observed, the district. There are altogether 27 districts in the Province with an average area of 3,668 square miles and an average population of 1,129,766. These districts are grouped together to form the five Divisions of Dacca, Chittagong, Rajshahi, the Surma Valley and Hill Districts and the Assam Valley Districts, each of which is entrusted to a Commissioner, to whom the Local Government has delegated a considerable portion of its powers of control. Districts are again subdivided into subdivisions, of which there are 62, with an average area of 1,478 square miles and an average population of 455,279. The table below shows the divisions, districts and the outlying subdivisions as they stood on the 31st March 1906:—

	District.	Subdivision.
1. Dacca	1. Dacca	Sadr., Manikganj., Narainganj., Munshiganj.
	2. Mymensingh	Sadr., Jamalpur., Tangail., Netrakona., Kishorganj.
	3. Faridpur	Sadr., Goalundo., Madaripur.
	4. Bakarganj	Sadr., Pirojpur., Patuakhali., Dakhin Shahbazpur.
2. Chittagong	5. Chittagong	Sadr., Cox's Bazar.
	6. Tippera	Comilla (Sadr)., Brahmanbaria., Chandpur.
	7. Noakhali	Sadr., Feni.
	8. Chittagong Hill Tracts	*No subdivision.*
3. Rajshahi	9. Rajshahi	Sadr., Naugaon., Nator.
	10. Dinajpur	Sadr., Thakurgaon., Balurghat.
	11. Jalpaiguri	Sadr., Alipur.
	12. Rangpur	Sadr., Nilphamari., Kurigaon., Gaibandha.
	13. Bogra	*No subdivision.*
	14. Pabna	Sadr., Sirajganj.
	15. Malda	*No subdivision.*
4. Cachar	16. Cachar	Silchar., Hailakandi., North Cachar (Haflong).

	District.	Subdivision.
4. Surma Valley and Hill Districts	17. Sylhet ...	Sadr.
		Karimganj.
		South Sylhet.
		Habiganj.
		Sunamganj.
	18. Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Shillong (Sadr).
		Jowai.
	19. Naga Hills ...	Sadr.
		Mokokchang.
	20. Lushai Hills ...	Aijal (Sadr).
		Lungleh.
5. Assam Valley Districts ...	21. Goalpara ...	Dhubri (Sadr).
		Goalpara.
	22. Kamrup ...	Gauhati (Sadr).
		Barpeta.
	23. Darrang ...	Tezpur (Sadr).
		Mangaldai.
	24. Nowgong ...	*No subdivision.*
	25. Sibsagar ...	Sadr.
		Jorhat.
		Golaghat.
	26. Lakhimpur ...	Dibrugarh (Sadr).
		North Lakhimpur.
	27. Garo Hills...	*No subdivision.*

Police Divisions.

242. There are in the province 237 police stations and 160 outposts. These thana divisions, though they originally defined police jurisdiction, have been increasing in importance year by year, and are now utilized to a large extent for other than police purposes. They form, in the permanently-settled portions of the province, the smallest units of administration.

Revenue Divisions.

243. The ordinary revenue division into parganas, which dates from the time of the Mogul Emperors, is still the basis of the revenue system in East Bengal and in some parts of Assam, *viz.*, Sylhet, the plains of Cachar and the permanently-settled portion of Goalpara. These pargana divisions, however, are so interlaced one with another and have fallen into such decay, that in some districts it is difficult to ascertain where one ends and another begins. They have consequently died out in favour of the simpler and more compact police divisions, except for purposes of land revenue payments. For these purposes they have been grouped, in Sylhet and Cachar, into larger areas, sometimes called zillas, and the revenue is paid, in the former district, at the subdivisional headquarters within the jurisdiction of which they lie, and, in the latter, at the three tahsils into which the district has been divided. In Eastern Bengal all land revenue is collected at the district headquarters for all parganas lying within a district.

244. In the Assam Valley, on the other hand, the whole area of a district is parcelled out into blocks, called mauzas or *mahals*, each with an average area of 117 square miles, and the dues realizable from all persons resident in them are collected by the officers in charge of them, who are known as mauzadars. The Assam *mauza* is very different from the territorial village or revenue unit of area, which is the area known by this name in Bengal. The origin of the change in the meaning of this word in Assam is that it came to be used primarily with reference to the area in charge of a mauzadar or revenue collector; and as it was found advisable for many reasons gradually to reduce the number of mauzadars, by increasing the area assigned to each, the mauza came to include more and more villages, so that at the present day it often contains twenty or thirty, or even more.

245. In the Hill Districts there are different divisions for revenue purposes. In the Garo Hills, the strip of plains land, which surrounds the hill area on three sides, is managed by two mauzadars, who, however, are not contractors, as in Assam, but officers on a fixed salary. The hill area is portioned out into five mauzas, but the mauzadar here is only the superior officer who receives the house-tax from the headmen of groups of villages, and these again collect from the head and representative of each village.

In North Cachar also the collection and assessment of the house tax have been entrusted to mauzadars who occupy much the same position as the mauzadar in the Brahmaputra Valley.

In the Jaintia Hills, there are 19 circles of villages, each of which is managed by a dolloi or headman, who collects the house-tax and pays it in, receiving a commission. There are, besides, four sardarships, the management of which is hereditary, the headmen being Kuki or Mikir chiefs.

In the Khasi Hills and the Naga Hills, each village pays its tax through its own headman.

SECTION 6.—Details of the last Census (1901). Tribes and Languages.

246. The last general census of the whole of India was taken on the night of the 1st March 1901, or ten years and three days after the previous enumeration. Assam, which now forms one portion of the new Province, had then an administration of its own, and Eastern Bengal, which forms the other, was under the Government of Bengal. Their population was, therefore, enumerated separately, but the arrangements for making the enumeration were identical in both the provinces. It is worth noticing that the districts transferred to this province are almost exactly those included in "Northern Bengal" and "Eastern Bengal" which formed two of the five natural divisions into which Bengal was divided on the results of the census by the Superintendent of Census Operations of that Province.

Outline of procedure.

247. In Eastern Bengal, and in the plains districts and the North Lushai Hills in Assam, the whole of the country was divided into blocks, containing on an average about 40 to 46 houses, each of which was placed in charge of an enumerator. This individual, whose general education was usually of a very low standard, had to be trained carefully beforehand in the rules for filling up the different columns of the census schedules, and, with this object in view, a regular scale of Census Officers was appointed. The first direct step towards the taking of the census was the numbering of the houses: a house was defined as "the homestead, consisting of one or more buildings, where the members of one family reside under a common head with their servants." The next step was the preparation of the preliminary record, *i.e.*, the entry in the enumeration schedules of the necessary particulars regarding all persons ordinarily resident in each house. The information to be recorded included—name, religion, sex, age, civil condition, caste, occupation, parent-tongue, birth-place, literacy, or illiteracy, language in which literate, and certain infirmities. This preliminary record was prepared by the enumerators by the middle of February,—and the period between that month and the 1st of March was spent in testing and, when necessary, correcting it. On the latter date, between 7 P.M. and midnight, each enumerator visited in turn every house in his beat, and brought the record up to date by striking out the entries relating to persons no longer present, and entering the necessary particulars for all new-comers. Special arrangements were made for the enumeration of travellers by rail, road, steamer, and boat, for the Sundarbans, and for tea gardens. In the North Cachar and Mikir Hills the number of literate persons is so small, and villages are so scattered, and travelling after dark through jungles is so dangerous, that it was impossible to form blocks which could be properly tested by the enumerator during the night. This officer was, therefore, obliged to take up his position on March 1st, at some central village in his block and correct his record on the following day in the light of the information received from the headmen, who came in from the different hamlets and reported the changes that had taken place since his last visit. In the Naga, Khasi and Jaintia, and Garo Hills, and in the hills to the east of Manipur, it was imposible to hold a synchronous census, and the enumeration was extended over a period ranging from ten days to six weeks. Only a small proportion of the total population was included in the non-synchronous returns, and there is so little movement in these hills, that the accuracy of the enumeration could have been but little affected by this deviation from the ordinary form of procedure.

Area and density of population.

248. The area of the province, as shown by the last census, was 105,233 square miles, and the total population 30,961,459, of whom only 457,790 lived in the Native States of Hill Tippera and Manipur. The density was 311 to the square mile for British territory only, and 294 to the square mile after including the sparsely populated Native States.

In North Bengal the density is greatest in the east and decreases towards the west and north. The centre of this tract contains the sparsely-populated Barind. Pabna, which stands first in respect of density of population, owes its position mainly to the rich jute fields of the Sirajganj subdivision. Bogra is most thickly populated in the east, where jute is the main staple, but towards the north-west, where the alluvium gives way to the quasi-laterite of the Barind, the population becomes more sparse. Thanks to its very fertile soil, Rangpur, in spite of long-continued unhealthiness, has a far greater population than Dinajpur to the west, Jalpaiguri to the north, or Goalpara in Assam to the east. Its density is very little less than that of Bogra and is almost the same

North Bengal.	Area in square miles.	Density.
Rajshahi	2,593	564
Dinajpur	3,946	397
Jalpaiguri	2,962	266
Rangpur	3,493	617
Bogra	1,359	629
Pabna	1,839	772
Malda	1,899	466
Rajshahi division ...	18,091	505

as that of Mymensingh, which adjoins it on the south-east. The relatively low density of Rajshahi is due partly to its containing a large portion of the Barind and partly to the presence of numerous marshes and lakes, including the Chalan Bil, the longest sheet of inland water in Bengal. Malda also owes its low position to the Barind, which extends over a great part of the district east of the Mahananda. Dinajpur owns a share of the Barind, but its density is low throughout, and the most populous police circle in the district can boast of only 531 persons to the square mile. Jalpaiguri is even more sparsely populated. The fewest inhabitants are in the Duars: towards the west this tract has filled up rapidly owing to the extension of tea cultivation, but in the east the population is still very sparse, and in Alipur it averages only 89 persons to the square mile.

Dacca, which lies in the angle formed by the confluence of the Padma and Megna, is the most thickly-populated district in Eastern Bengal, and in some parts of it the density of the rural population is phenomenal. Next to Dacca, come Faridpur on the bank of the Padma and Tippera on that of the Megna. These districts are sufficiently near the mouth of these great rivers to benefit to the full by their silt-laden floods, while they are far enough from the sea to escape damage by cyclones and storm waves, and they are not weighted, as are the districts on the coast, by the inclusion in their area of land not yet sufficiently elevated to be fit for permanent occupation. In Mymensingh to the north and Bakarganj and Noakhali to the south, the density is very uniform. The relatively low position of Bakarganj is due to the figures for the south and west of the district. This tract is exposed to damage by storm waves; a large part of it is still uncultivable, and it was laid waste less than two centuries ago by Magh pirates from Arakan. The relatively low density of Mymensingh is due to the fact that in the north of the district, under the Garo Hills, many parts are very sparsely inhabited, and so also is the Madhupur jungle which projects through the centre of the district from Dacca boundary almost as far as the town of Mymensingh. In the west the arable area is reduced by numerous *haors* or depressions in the surface which are filled with water for the greater part of the year. The average density of population in Chittagong is reduced by the figures for the Cox's Bazar subdivision which includes the storm-swept island of Maheshkhal and Banskhali, and, in the south, an inhospitable region of hill and jungle with only a few infrequent patches of cultivable land. The Chittagong Hill Tracts and Hill Tippera are even less capable of supporting a large population than the south of Chittagong, and their inhabitants are mostly migratory savages. Hill Tippera includes a strip of comparatively level land along its western boundary, and here cultivation is more permanent and the population is less sparse.

East Bengal.	Area in square mile.	Density.
Dacca	2,782	923
Mymensingh	6,332	618
Faridpur	2,281	849
Bakarganj	3,645	628
Dacca division	15,040	717
Tippera	2,499	848
Noakhali	1,644	694
Chittagong	2,492	543
Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	5,138	24
Chittagong division ...	11,773	402
Hill Tippera	4,086	42

In the three natural divisions of Assam, the density varies from 353 in the Surma Valley to 108 in the Bramhaputra Valley, and 27 in the hill districts, while of particular districts Sylhet has 412 persons to the square mile, and the Lushai Hills only 11. The causes of these variations are partly natural and partly historical. The fertile rice-plain of Sylhet, with a damp but not unhealthy climate and a steady and copious rainfall, forms part of the delta of Bengal, one of the most populous tracts in India. The hills, on the other hand, are covered with thick forest, cultivation is laborious and growth of population slow. The indigenous tribes, such as Nagas and Khasias, cling, for the most part, to the higher levels and shun the malarious jungles of the lower hills, where only acclimatised races of Bodo origin like the Garo and Mech can venture to settle with impunity. The causes of scanty population in the Assam Valley

Assam.	Area in square miles.	Density.
Cachar (plains) ...	2,063	201
Sylhet ...	5,443	412
Surma Valley ...	7,506	353
North Cachar ...	1,706	24
Naga Hills ...	3,070	33
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	6,027	34
Garo Hills ...	3,140	44
Lushai Hills ...	7,227	11
Hill Districts ...	21,170	27
Surma Valley and Hill Districts Division ...	28,676	112
Goalpara ...	3 961	117
Kamrup ...	3,858	153
Darrang ...	3,418	99
Nowgong ...	3,843	68
Sibsagar ...	4,996	120
Lakhimpur ...	4,207	88
Assam Valley Division ...	24,283	108
Manipur ...	3,284	87

Division are mainly historical. The fanatical Maomaria insurrection in the eighteenth century, and the ruthless methods by which it was suppressed; the Burmese invasion of less than a hundred years ago, which left the country at the time of the British occupation almost denuded of inhabitants; ceaseless minor raids of which no complete record survives,—all these misfortunes have left their marks on the Assam Valley and have contributed to the decline of the Assamese population to which the statistics bear witness. That the vacuum thus created has not been filled by the natural inflow of immigrant cultivators may be due in part to the conformation of the surface, which does not lend itself to rice cultivation on the same scale as Bengal; to the comparative poverty of the soil; to the imperfect means of communication; to the prevalence of the fever known as *kala-azar*; and to the vague dread of Assam which prevails generally in Bengal.

Variations in the population.

249. Eastern Bengal is at present by far the most progressive part of the province. The climate is generally healthy, the people are prosperous, and a very large proportion of them are prolific Muhammadans. The whole tract shared in the general progress, but the greatest apparent development was in Hill Tippera, where the proportion of increase was raised by immigration to 26·1 per cent. The British district of Tippera came next with an advance of 18·8 per cent., which is attributable solely to natural growth. Excluding the Chittagong Hill Tracts which showed an increase of 16·3 per cent., due to the natural growth of a very sparse population, Noakhali, with a growth of 13·0 per cent., stands next to Tippera, and is followed closely by Mymensingh, with an increase of 12·8 per cent., and by Dacca with an increase of 10·6 per cent. Bakarganj and Faridpur showed a remarkable uniform rate of growth amounting, respectively, to 6·4 and 6·2 per cent., respectively. The least progressive tract in the whole of Eastern Bengal is Chittagong where there has been an increase of only 4·9 per cent. Its soil is only to a small extent alluvial, but the comparatively slow development is due mainly to the havoc wrought by the cyclone of October 1897, and to the emigration which followed it.

The history of Northern Bengal has been less satisfactory. The rivers have been silting up their beds, the land is water-logged, and epidemics of malarial fever have been serious and prolonged. Rajshahi Division consequently showed an increase of only 1·6 per cent. in the ten years that preceded the last census. The most rapid rate of increase was found in Jalpaiguri, where it amounted to 15·6 per cent. There the ordinary cultivation has expanded and the tea gardens in the Duars have attracted foreign-born population of from 28 to 55 per cent. Bogra, which comes next with an increase of 11·8 per cent., owes its increment to the industrious Santals who are reclaiming the laterite ridges of the once fertile Barind from the jungle which had been allowed to overrun it. It is followed by Malda, with a net growth of 8·5 per cent., half of which seems to be due to immigration and half to natural growth. Public health has been bad in Dinajpur, Pabna, Rangpur, and Rajshahi, and the proportion of increase in these districts has been only 5·7, 4·3, 4·3, and 1·6 per cent., respectively.

The gross increase in the population of Assam between 1891 and 1901 was 649,041, or 11·8 per cent., but this includes the figures for Lushai and Manipur, for which census totals for 1891 are not available, and, if the population of these provinces is deducted, the increase sinks to 5·9 per cent. The greater part even of this moderate increase was due to immigration, and the number of those born and censused in the province only rose by 67,200 or 1·36 per cent. The highest rate of increase, 11 per cent., was found in the hill districts, but this was due to the accident that the scanty population of the North Cachar Hills was more than doubled by the presence of over 20,000 persons employed on the construction of the Assam-Bengal Railway. The real increase in the hills was thus only 6·5 per cent. In the Garo Hills, which are generally considered to be far from healthy, there was a satisfactory increase of 13·7 per cent., but the inhabitants of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills suffered severely from the earthquake and the epidemics which followed it, and there was very little growth in their numbers (2·1 per cent.). In the Surma Valley the Cachar plains showed an increase of 12·8 per cent., of which 10·5 per cent. was due to natural growth and the rest to immigration, but the proportion of growth in Sylhet amounted only to 4·05 per cent. The explanation of this stagnation in the population in this district will probably be found in an abnormal mortality, more especially in the years 1897 and 1898.

In the Brahmaputra Valley the greatest gross increase occurred in Lakhimpur, amounting to 46·1 per cent., 16 per cent. from natural growth and 30 per cent. from immigration. The growth of this district, which is due to the tea gardens, has been continuous and the population has trebled since 1872. Next comes the neighbouring district of Sibsagar with an increase of 24·4 per cent., which was due in equal proportion to immigration and to natural growth. In contrast to the example of pro-

gress set by these districts, Kamrup showed a decrease of 7 per cent., and Nowgong of nearly 25 per cent., the chief cause of decrease in both cases being a virulent and deadly form of fever known as *kalá-azar* or the black sickness. A point of special interest in connection with Assam Proper, *i.e.*, the five upper districts of the valley of the Brahmaputra, is that the Assamese and the indigenous tribes who inhabit the valley have been dying out, and there was a decrease in their numbers of about 6 per cent. during the last ten years.

Distribution of population between towns and villages.

250. In the province as a whole, out of every 100 persons, 98 live in villages and only 2 in towns. The explanation is not far to seek: the older towns have few industries, and such as they possess are for the most part decadent, while in the newer towns, the industries are carried on by foreign capital, and even the employés come from other parts of the country. The inhabitants of the province are almost all agriculturists, and there is nothing to attract them to the towns which do exist. The great majority of these towns—of which there are 61—are small and unimportant, and the average population is only 12,081. The largest towns are Dacca (90,542) and Imphal in Manipur (67,093), though the latter place possesses no urban characteristics, and is an overgrown village rather than a town. No other town has a population of as many as 25,000 souls and in only four towns, Rampore Boalia, Sirajganj, Narainganj, and Chittagong, does the number of inhabitants exceed 20,000 persons.

The figures for villages are of little interest, as, except in the Lushai and Naga Hills and in North Cachar, the boundaries of a village are vague and indeterminate, and it is difficult to say where one ends and another begins. In the plains they usually take the form of scattered clumps of houses, embedded in dense groves of bamboos and fruit-trees, but in the flooded tracts the cottages are often huddled up together on sites which have been artificially raised above flood-level. In the hills the villages are generally built on open sites near the summit of the ridges, and among the Nagas almost attain to the size of little towns. The total number of villages in 1901 was 91,760, with an average population of 337 souls.

Population by religion. Hindus and Muhammadans.

251. The three main religions of the province are Islam, Hinduism, and Animism, the name applied to the somewhat vague and indeterminate beliefs of the aboriginal tribes inhabiting the province. Seventeen millions eight hundred and sixty-eight thousand four hundred and fifty-two of the population were returned as Muhammdans, 11,639,491 as Hindus, and 1,204,305 as Animists. In East Bengal, two-thirds of the inhabitants are followers of the Prophet, in North Bengal nearly three-fifths, and in Assam one-fourth. Of individual districts, Bogra, with 82 per cent., has the greatest proportion of Mussalman population, then follow Rajshahi with 78, Noakhali with 76, Pabna with 75, and Mymensingh and Chittagong with 71 per cent. Dacca, which was the residence of the Nawabs for about a hundred years, contains a smaller proportion of Muhammadans than any of the surrounding districts, except Faridpur. Malda, which contains the old capital which was the centre of Muhammadan rule for nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ centuries, has a smaller proportion of Muhammadans than the adjacent districts of Dinajpur and Rajshahi. In Bakarganj and Sylhet the Muhammadans form a little more than half of the population, and in Cachar and Goalpara 30 and 27 per cent., respectively. In the Assam Valley the proportion steadily decreases towards the east, falling from 9 per cent. in Kamrup to 3 per cent. in Lakhimpur. Islam has never had any attraction for the hill tribes, and there are very few Muhammdans among them.

Nearly one-third of the whole population of the province are Hindus. In Eastern Bengal they are in a great minority. In the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions their number amounts to $4\frac{3}{4}$ millions only, against $10\frac{1}{2}$ millions of Muhammadans and in the Rajshahi Division to a little over 3 millions, against $5\frac{1}{2}$ millions of the latter. In towns, like Pabna, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Noakhali and Chittagong, only about a quarter of the inhabitants belong to that religion, while in Bogra the proportion sinks as low as 18 per cent. In Assam, on the other hand, 55·9 per cent. of the population are Hindus and 25·8 per cent. are Muhammadans. The largest number of the former are found in Sylhet, but the proportion (46·8 per cent.) is much lower than in Assam Proper, where the ratio varies from 64 per cent. in Nowgong to 88 per cent. in Sibsagar and 89 per cent. in Lakhimpur.

The growth of Muhammadans has been much more rapid than that of the Hindus in Eastern Bengal. It has been exactly the same in North Bengal. In Assam, however, the order has been reversed. The great increase among the Muhammadans in Eastern Bengal is due not only to proselytism, but to their greater fertility. The Mussulman, with his more varied and nutritious dietary, is probably a more vigorous man than the Hindu, the number of ill-assorted marriages is not so large, and widows instead, of being confined to a life of sterility,

	Percentage of increase.	
	Hindus.	Muhammadans.
East Bengal	6·9	12·3
North Bengal	5·3	5·3
Assam	8·7	5·8

not infrequently obtain a second husband if they have not passed the reproductive period. In Assam also the figures for the Muhammadans would probably show a greater increase but for the disturbing factor of immigration. In the Surma Valley, at any rate, it is fairly evident that, if outside influences are excluded, they increase more rapidly than their Hindu neighbours.

Animists.

252. The majority of unconverted tribes believe in the existence of good and evil spirits, but devote most of their religious energies to the propitiation of the latter, as from the former they have nothing to fear. In Eastern and Northern Bengal the proportion of Animists is, according to the census figures, generally low. They are nowhere numerous in this part of the province. It is only in the hills of Assam that a large portion of them may be found. There they form 85 per cent. of the population. A good number of them live also in Nowgong, Goalpara, Kamrup, and Darrang, where they form from 20 to 30 per cent. of the total. They show an increase of 6·8 per cent. in East Bengal and 156·8 per cent. in North Bengal, but in Assam they show a decrease of ·48 per cent. The large apparent increase in the Rajshahi Division is due to immigration and the decrease in Assam to conversions to Christianity and Hinduism. The process of conversion to the latter religion does not appear to be going on very rapidly, except in Darrang, for, though in Kamrup and Nowgong there has been a large decrease in their number, this decrease is less than that which has occurred amongst indigenous population as a whole.

Christians.

253. The Christian community comprises Europeans and other foreigners, Eurasians and Indian converts. The total number of Christians has been growing rapidly during the last ten years, the figures at the last census being 66,076, against 39,459 in 1891. Three thousand five hundred and thirty-nine are members of European allied races, 3,235 are Eurasians, and 59,302 natives of the country. The chief proselytizing agencies in the province are the Welsh Presbyterian Mission, whose efforts in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills have been extraordinarily successful, the Baptists, whose centres are in the swamps of Bakargunj and Faridpur, the Garo Hills, Goalpara, Kamrup and Sibsagar, and the Presbyterians, whose Missionaries are now at work in the Jalpaiguri district.

Buddhists.

254. Of the other religions, the most important is Buddhism, which has 178,275 adherants, compared with 168,758 at the previous census. There has been a considerable increase in the number of Buddhists in the districts in Northern and Eastern Bengal, the figures of which are given in the margin. The Buddhists enumerated in North Bengal are mostly immigrants from Bhutan, Tibet, and Nepal. In Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts those who profess this religion are mainly Maghs and Chakmas, but there is also a fair sprinkling of Tipperas in the hill districts who described themselves at the last census as Buddhists. Buddhism has taken no hold upon the people of Assam and the numbers in the various districts remain very constant. The great number of those returned as Buddhists in Kamrup, Darrang, and Goalpara are Bhutias, who come down in the cold weather to trade in the plains; but in Sibsagar and Lakhimpur there are small colonies of Noras, Torungs, Shans, Aitonias and Phakials who profess the Buddhist faith.

District.	Number of Budhists in—	
	1901	1891
Chittagong Hill Tracts.	83,137	74,128
Chittagong	61,973	61,615
Jalpaiguri	6,291	2,509
Bakarganj	7,220	6,080
Hill Tippera	5,999	4,734

Sex.

255. In Eastern and Northern Bengal the actual population shows a slight deficiency of females, who number only 966 to every thousand males, but if the effects of emigration be discounted by considering only the natural population, *i.e.*, persons born in these parts of the province, the proportion of females to males comes to 992 per thousand. Only in five districts do the females exceed the males, *viz.*, Pabna (1,002), Malda (1,020), Dacca (1,019), Noakhali (1,007) and Chittagong (1,110). In the rest they are in a minority. Their number per thousand is least where the Mongoloid element in the population is the strongest, *viz.*, in Jalpaiguri (894), the Chittagong Hill Tracts (901), Hill Tippera (913) and Dinajpur (932). The proportion for the whole of Mymensingh is 943, but if we consider separately the police circles which adjoin the Garo Hills, it appears that the proportion there is only 902 compared with 950 in the rest of the district. The numerical position of women per thousand is much the same now as it was ten years ago in East Bengal, but it has fallen in Northern Bengal.

In Assam there were on the census night only 949 females to every 1,000, or, if we exclude the large proportion of emigrants, 977 to every 1,000. Women are most numerous in the hill districts, where their position is most assured and they marry as adults, and least so in the plains, especially in the two districts at the eastern extremity of the Brahmaputra Valley. The largest number of women is found amongst the Lushais, Lalungs and Khasis, where they number respectively 1,191, 1,119 and 1,118 per 1,000 males. It is low among the Bodo tribes, and the Chandals and Kaibartas.

256. The most striking fact brought out by the statistics of marriage is the extreme prevalence of this institution. The number of persons who go through life unmarried is very small. Taking the province as a whole 44 per cent. of the men are husbands, 50 per cent. bachelors and 6 per cent. widowers, while 47 per cent. of the women are wives, 33 per cent. spinsters and 20 per cent. widows. The proportion of men returned as unmarried is apparently high, but a very large percentage of these are under 15 years of age. There is a great deal of difference between the marriage practices of the animistic tribes and those of the Muhammadans and Hindus. Amongst the Animists, females are fairly mature before they enter the bonds of marriage, the late marriage being due, to a great extent, to the pre-nuptial communism allowed by them, while infant marriage is far less common with the Muhammadans than with the Hindus. The Muhammadan girls, however, marry earlier than their Animist sisters. The Animists, again, have no scruples at all concerning the remarriage of widows and the Hindus have the most. Among the latter widows of the higher castes are everywhere forbidden to take a second husband, although the prohibition does not extend to the lowest castes. The Muhammadans occupy a position intermediate between these: although the marriage of widows is enjoined by Muhammadan law, in India the example of the Hindus has gradually created a prejudice among them in the other direction, and at the present day it is seldom that a man takes a widow as his first wife. Marriage.

257. The four infirmities selected for record at the census were insanity, deaf-mutism from birth, blindness, and leprosy. The total number of the insane is less than it was in 1891. Insanity is most prevalent in North Bengal, and especially in Rangpur and Jalpaiguri, the proportion of lunatics in this tract per 100,000 being 58. Then follow in order Assam with a proportion of 40 and East Bengal with a proportion of 42. It is probable that race affects the relative prevalence of this infirmity more than any other cause. The Mongoloid tribes, who form the main ingredient in the population of Northern Bengal, Goalpara and parts of Assam, are very prone to it, but the Koch is the tribe that suffers from it more than any other. This does not explain the high ratio of insanity in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and in the Lushai Hills, but here also it is doubtless a matter of race, as these districts adjoin Burma, and insanity is very prevalent among the Burmese. The figures for deaf-mutism for the whole province show also a satisfactory decrease when compared with those of 1891. In Assam the infirmity is more prevalent in the hill districts than in the plains, and it is a well-known fact that there is some connection between it and the hilly country, though whether the actual cause is to be found in the water of the mountain streams, or in the consanguineous marriages which are far from uncommon among the hill tribes, is still uncertain. In the other portion of the province the districts where the infirmity is most prevalent are Jalpaiguri, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Pabna. With the exception of Pabna all these tracts are Himalayan or sub-Himalayan, and this agrees with the result of the census of 1891, when it was found that insanity is located mostly in the Himalayas or along the rivers flowing directly from that system. The Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam is, for India, a comparatively cool country, there is an abundant rainfall and little dust or glare, and this no doubt accounts for the small proportion of the blind censused within its boundaries. The rate was men and women 7 and 5 per 10,000 in East Bengal, 8 and 7 in North Bengal and 10 and 9 in Assam as compared with 34 and 37 in the Punjab in 1891 and 16 and 17 in the Indian Empire. The proportion of the blind in the hill districts of Assam was much higher than that in the plains portion. Ophthalmia is a contagious disease, and would probably spread more rapidly in a hillman's hut; and the difficulty of obtaining treatment in the earlier stages of the disease may also have something to do with the matter. Leprosy is of very rare occurrence in East Bengal; it is more widely diffused in North Bengal, but it is the inhabitants of Assam who are singularly liable to this disease, the ratio for men being 13 per 10,000, as compared with 7 in the Indian Empire in 1891. It was specially virulent in Goalpara. The diagnosis of this disease is by no means easy, and it is possible that a certain proportion of the cases returned as leprosy were really cases of leucoderma or syphilitic ulcerations. Infirmities.

258. The two main indigenous languages of the Province are Bengali and Assamese. Bengali is spoken by a very large proportion of the population in East and North Bengal, and is the common vernacular of the Surma Valley and Goalpara. It is also used by a large number of foreigners in the tea districts. Assamese is almost entirely confined to Assam proper, *i.e.*, the five upper districts of the Brahmaputra Valley. The other main groups of languages in the Province are the Munda and Dravidian, which are spoken by numerous immigrants from the Sonthal Parganas in the Barind, and from Ranchi and other neighbouring districts in the tea gardens, and the Tibeto-Burman languages are found in the district of Jalpaiguri, partly in the Chittagong Hill Languages.

Tracts and Hill Tippera, and in the hill districts of Assam and Manipur. There are also a few scattered colonies of people speaking languages of this formation in Dacca and Mymensingh. The great majority of the Bodo group of this family are found in the Brahmaputra Valley and the Garo and North Cachar Hills, but, as is only natural, these special forms of speech are being gradually replaced by Assamese, which is the *Lingua Franca* of the Valley.

Education.

259. The only test of literacy was the ability to read and write any language. People of whatever age who could do this were entered as literate, and those who could not, as illiterate. The qualification seems a very simple one, and yet in Assam only 67 per thousand of males have been returned as literate and 4 out of every 1,000 females, while the proportions (97 and 5 respectively) are slightly higher in Eastern and Northern Bengal. In Assam the best results are found in the Surma Valley and in the Khasi Hills, where the Welsh Calvinistic Missionaries have done much in the cause of education, and the worst in the Naga and Garo Hills. In the Brahmaputra Valley the proportion of literate males ranges from 68 per mille in Kamrup to 49 in Goalpara, where it is lower than in the Lushai Hills. In the other portion of the Province, *viz*, East Bengal, Bakarganj, Dacca, Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong, where the proportions of literate males varied from 105 to 147 per mille, showed the best results, and in Jalpaiguri and Rangpur, where the proportions fell to 70 and 64, respectively, the worst. The greatest amount of literacy is met with amongst the Christians, and next to the Christians, the proportion of the literate is highest amongst the Buddhists, but the difference between them and the Hindus is very slight. The Muhammadans are much more backward, and the proportion who can read and write is barely half as great as it is amongst Hindus.

Occupation.

260. The most striking feature brought out by the return on occupation in 1901 was the immense preponderance of agricultural pursuits. Nearly four-fifths of the whole population returned some form of agriculture as their principal means of subsistence; seventy-two per cent. were either landlords or tenants, four per cent. were agricultural labourers, and another three per cent. shewn under the head "general labourers" were doubtless in the main supported by work in the fields. About ten per cent. of the population were maintained by the preparation and supply of material substances, and the occupations of about two per cent. fell under the head "Commerce, transport and storage." Personal services provided employment for very few, and the number of persons who subsisted by this means was one per cent. Government service and the professions were the principal means of support of two per hundred.

Census Tables.

Table I.—Area, Houses and Population.
" II.—Variation in Population since 1872.
" III.—Religion.
" IV.—Age, Sex, and Civil Condition.
" V.—Education.
" VI.—Occupations.

TABLE I—*Area,*

Serial No.	District or State.	Area in square miles.	Number of		Occupied houses.		
			Towns.	Villages.	Total.	In towns.	In villages.
	EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM ...	*105,233*	*61*	*91,760*	*5,870,796*	*153,246*	*5,717,550*
	(1) *British Territory*	*97,863*	*59*	*89,830*	*5,780,157*	*138,141*	*5,642,016*
	DACCA DIVISION	*15,040*	*17*	*26,928*	*1,980,331*	*61,190*	*1,919,141*
1	Dacca	2,782	2	7,263	470,243	21,663	448,580
2	Mymensingh	6,332	8	9,770	665,296	21,967	643,329
3	Faridpur	2,281	2	5,283	373,308	6,434	366,874
4	Bakarganj	3,645	5	4,612	471,484	11,126	460,358
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	*11,773*	*6*	*9,740*	*865,877*	*16,633*	*849,244*
5	Chittagong	2,492	2	1,450	275,477	5,738	269,739
6	Tippera	2,499	3	5,361	359,843	9,590	350,253
7	Noakhali	1,644	1	2,633	209,147	1,305	207,842
8	Chittagong Hill Tracts	5,138	...	296	21,410	...	21,410
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	*18,091*	*18*	*31,303*	*1,684,720*	*35,739*	*1,648,931*
9	Rajshahi	2,593	2	6,344	287,803	7,002	280,801
10	Dinajpur	3,946	1	7,841	287,687	2,937	284,750
11	Jalpaiguri	2,962	2	766	156,625	2,043	154,582
12	Rangpur	3,493	6	5,212	387,349	6,937	380,412
13	Bogra	1,359	2	3,865	143,754	2,509	141,245
14	Pabna	1,889	2	3,720	258,707	8,987	249,720
15	Malda	1,899	3	3,555	162,795	5,374	157,421
	SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS	*25,536*	*8*	*12,032*	*651,078*	*11,151*	*639,927*
16	Cachar (plains)	2,063	1	1,078	95,616	2,144	93,472
17	North Cachar Hills	1,706	...	254	9,740	...	9,740
18	Sylhet	5,443	5	8,330	457,752	6,660	451,092
19	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	6,027	1	1,839	41,788	1,632	40,156
20	Naga Hills...	3,070	1	292	30,514	715	29,799
21	Lushai „	7,227	...	239	15,668	...	15,668
	ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS ...	*24,283*	*10*	*8,801*	*570,149*	*13,378*	*556,771*
22	Goalpara	3,961	2	1,461	86,781	1,917	84,864
23	Kamrup	3,858	2	1,716	120,994	4,422	116,572
24	Darrang	3,418	1	1,275	79,719	1,141	78,578
25	Nowgong	3,843	1	1,117	55,287	943	54,344
26	Sibsagar	4,996	3	2,109	135,003	2,387	132,616
27	Lakhimpur...	4,207	1	1,123	92,365	2,568	89,797
28	GARO HILLS	*3,140*	...	*1,026*	*28,002*	...	*28,002*
	(2) *Feudatory States*...	*7,370*	*2*	*1,930*	*90,639*	*15,105*	*75,534*
29	Hill Tippera	4,086	1	1,463	30,678	2,013	28,665
30	Manipur	3,284	1	467	59,961	13,092	46,869

1906].

Houses, and Population.

Population.									
Persons.			Males.			Females.			Serial No.
Total.	Urban.	Rural.	Total.	Urban.	Rural.	Total.	Urban.	Rural.	
30,961,459	*736,933*	*30,224,526*	*15,771,904*	*429,037*	*15,342,867*	*15,189,555*	*307,896*	*14,881,659*	
30,503,669	*660,327*	*29,843,342*	*15,539,777*	*390,225*	*15,149,552*	*14,963,892*	*270,102*	*14,693,790*	
10,793,988	*295,097*	*10,498,891*	*5,473,289*	*174,298*	*5,298,991*	*5,320,699*	*120,799*	*5,199,900*	
2,649,522	115,014	2,534,508	1,312,417	67,331	1,245,086	1,337,105	47,683	1,289,422	1
3,915,068	105,397	3,809,671	2,014,805	59,733	1,955,072	1,900,263	45,664	1,854,599	2
1,937,646	29,112	1,908,534	970,164	16,238	953,926	967,482	12,874	954,608	3
2,291,752	45,574	2,246,178	1,175,903	30,996	1,144,907	1,115,849	14,578	1,101,271	4
4,737,731	*80,951*	*4,656,780*	*2,364,396*	*48,499*	*2,315,897*	*2,373,335*	*32,452*	*2,340,883*	
1,353,250	25,985	1,327,265	641,392	15,540	625,852	711,858	10,445	701,413	5
2,117,991	48,446	2,069,545	1,085,989	28,656	1,057,333	1,032,002	19,790	1,012,212	6
1,141,728	6,520	1,135,208	568,777	4,303	564,474	572,951	2,217	570,734	7
124,762	...	124,762	68,238	...	68,238	56,524	.....	56,524	8
9,130,072	*170,603*	*8,959,464*	*4,698,032*	*95,814*	*4,602,218*	*4,432,040*	*74,794*	*4,357,246*	
1,462,407	30,243	1,432,164	741,690	16,160	725,530	720,717	14,083	706,634	9
1,567,080	13,450	1,553,650	823,972	8,067	815,905	743,108	5,383	737,745	10
787,380	10,289	777,091	422,877	6,513	416,364	364,503	3,776	360,727	11
2,154,181	29,484	2,124,697	1,125,109	18,892	1,106,217	1,029,072	10,592	1,018,480	12
854,533	11,198	843,335	437,349	6,319	431,030	417,184	4,879	412,305	13
1,420,461	41,538	1,378,923	709,396	22,209	687,187	711,065	19,329	691,736	14
884,030	34,426	849,604	437,639	17,654	419,985	446,391	16,772	429,619	15
3,084,527	*51,565*	*3,032,962*	*1,573,102*	*32,775*	*1,540,327*	*1,511,425*	*18,790*	*1,492,635*	
414,781	9,256	405,525	216,806	6,575	210,231	197,975	2,681	195,294	16
40,812	...	40,812	27,355	...	27,355	13,457	.....	13,457	17
2,241,848	30,832	2,211,016	1,141,060	19,046	1,122,014	1,100,788	11,786	1,089,002	18
202,250	8,384	193,866	97,221	4,980	92,241	105,029	3,404	101,625	19
102,402	3,093	99,309	51,656	2,174	49,482	50,746	919	49,827	20
82,434	...	82,434	39,004	...	39,004	43,430	.....	43,430	21
2,619,077	*62,106*	*2,556,971*	*1,360,923*	*38,339*	*1,322,084*	*1,258,154*	*23,267*	*1,234,887*	
462,052	10,024	452,028	242,685	6,868	235,817	219,367	3,156	216,211	22
589,187	20,408	568,779	292,869	11,993	280,876	296,318	8,415	287,903	23
337,313	5,047	332,266	176,030	3,568	172,462	161,283	1,479	159,804	24
261,160	4,430	256,730	132,995	2,659	130,336	128,165	1,771	126,394	25
597,969	10,970	586,999	316,985	6,660	310,325	280,984	4,310	276,674	26
371,396	11,227	360,169	199,359	7,091	192,268	172,037	4,136	167,901	27
138,274	...	*138,274*	*70,035*	...	*70,035*	*68,239*	.....	*6 , 9*	28
457,790	*76,606*	*381,184*	*232,127*	*38,812*	*193,315*	*225,663*	*37,794*	*187,869*	
173,325	9,513	163,812	92,495	5,847	86,648	80,830	3,666	77,164	29
460	67,093	217,372	139,632	32,956	106,667	144,833	34,128	110,705	30

TABLE II—*Variation in*

Serial No.	District or State.	Persons.				Variation. Increase (+) or Decrease (—).		
		1901.	1891.	1881.	1872.	1891—1901.	1881—1891.	1872—1881.
	EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM	*30,961,459*	*28,259,128*	*25,781,503*	*23,179,958*	*2,379,066*	*2,655,059*	*2,380,385*
	(1) *British Territory*	*30,503,669*	*28,121,686*	*25,464,796*	*23,144,696*	*2,343,183*	*2,613,254*	*2,320,010*
	DACCA DIVISION	*10,793,988*	*9,845,296*	*8,707,040*	*7,597,500*	+ *948,692*	+ *1,138,256*	+ *1,109,540*
1	Dacca	2,649,522	2,395,430	2,090,877	1,827,931	+ 254,092	+ 304,553	+ 262,946
2	Mymensingh	3,915,068	3,472,186	3,055,237	2,351,695	+ 442,882	+ 416,949	+ 703,542
3	Faridpur	1,937,646	1,823,715	1,660,037	1,530,288	+ 113,931	+ 163,678	+ 129,749
4	Bakarganj	2,291,752	2,153,965	1,900,889	1,887,586	+ 137,787	+ 253,076	+ 13,303
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION ...	*4,737,731*	*4,190,081*	*3,569,071*	*3,441,430*	+ *547,650*	+ *621,010*	+ *127,641*
5	Chittagong	1,353,250	1,290,167	1,132,341	1,127,402	+ 63,083	+ 157,826	+ 4,939
6	Tippera	2,117,991	1,782,935	1,514,361	1,404,045	+ 335,056	+ 268,574	+ 110,316
7	Noakhali	1,141,728	1,009,693	820,772	840,376	+ 132,035	+ 188,921	— 19,604
8	Chittagong Hill Tracts	124,762	107,286	101,597	69,607	+ 17,476	+ 5,689	+ 31,990
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	*9,130,072*	*8,609,007*	*8,280,893*	*7,954,987*	+ *521,065*	+ *328,114*	+ *325,906*
9	Rajshahi	1,462,407	1,439,634	1,450,776	1,423,592	+ 22,773	— 11,142	+ 27,184
10	Dinajpur	1,567,080	1,482,570	1,442,518	1,430,096	+ 84,510	+ 40,052	+ 12,422
11	Jalpaiguri	787,380	680,736	580,570	417,855	+ 106,644	+ 100,166	+ 162,715
12	Rangpur	2,154,181	2,065,464	2,097,964	2,153,686	+ 88,717	— 32,500	— 55,722
13	Bogra	854,533	764,461	686,974	642,060	+ 90,072	+ 77,487	+ 44,914
14	Pabna	1,420,461	1,361,223	1,310,604	1,210,470	+ 59,238	+ 50,619	+ 100,134
15	Malda	884,030	814,919	711,487	677,328	+ 69,111	+ 103,432	+ 34,159
	SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS.	*3,064,527*	*2,879,251*	*2,546,241*	*2,165,943*	+ *166,476*	+ *289,376*	+ *380,298*
16	Cachar (plains)	414,781	367,542	293,738	205,027	+ 47,239	+ 73,804	+ 88,711
17	North Cachar Hills	40,812	18,941	20,120	30,000	+ 21,871	— 1,179	— 9,880
18	Sylhet	2,241,848	2,154,593	1,969,009	1,719,539	+ 87,255	+ 185,584	+ 249,470
19	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	202,250	197,904	167,804	140,356	+ 4,346	+ 30,100	+ 27,448
20	Naga Hills	102,402	96,687	95,570	71,021	+ 5,765	+ 1,067	+ 24,549
21	Lushai ,, ...	82,434	43,634	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS ...	*2,619,077*	*2,476,481*	*2,252,003*	*1,884,046*	+ *142,596*	+ *224,478*	+ *367,957*
22	Goalpara	462,052	452,773	446,700	387,341	+ 9,279	+ 6,073	+ 59,359
23	Kamrup	589,187	634,249	644,960	561,681	— 45,062	— 10,711	+ 83,279
24	Darrang	337,313	307,440	273,012	235,720	+ 29,873	+ 34,428	+ 37,292
25	Nowgong	261,160	347,307	314,893	260,238	— 86,147	+ 32,414	+ 54,655
26	Sibsagar	597,969	480,659	392,545	317,799	+ 117,310	+ 88,114	+ 74,746
27	Lakhimpur	371,396	254,053	179,893	121,267	+ 117,343	+ 74,160	+ 58,626
28	GARO HILLS	*138,274*	*121,570*	*109,543*	*100,780*	+ *16,704*	+ *12,022*	+ *8,763*
	(2) *Feudatory States*	*457,790*	*137,442*	*316,707*	*35,262*	+ *35,883*	+ *41,805*	+ *60,375*
29	Hill Tippera	173,325	137,442	95,637	35,262	+ 35,883	+ 41,805	+ 60,375
30	Manipur	284,465	.....	221,070	.....	.....	.....	.....

1906.]

Population since 1872.

Net variation in period 1872—1901. Increase (+) or decrease (—).	Males.				Females.				Serial No.
	1901.	1891.	1881.	1872.	1901.	1891.	1881.	1872.	
7,414,512	*15,771,804*	*14,163,485*	*12,998,955*	*11,688,441*	*15,189,555*	*13,895,643*	*12,782,548*	*11,491,637*	
7,276,449	*15,539,777*	*14,091,889*	*12,837,940*	*11,670,179*	*14,963,892*	*13,829,797*	*12,626,856*	*11,474,637*	
+ *3,196,488*	*5,473,289*	*4,987,392*	*4,369,733*	*3,798,077*	*5,320,699*	*4,857,904*	*4,337,307*	*3,799,423*	
+ 821,591	1,312,417	1,187,739	1,021,054	893,244	1,337,105	1,207,691	1,069,823	934,687	1
+ 1,563,373	2,014,805	1,788,616	1,555,005	1,188,816	1,900,263	1,683,570	1,500,232	1,162,879	2
+ 407,358	970,164	906,594	820,195	750,714	967,482	917,121	839,842	779,574	3
+ 404,166	1,175,903	1,104,443	973,479	965,303	1,115,849	1,049,522	927,410	922,283	4
+ *1,296,301*	*2,364,396*	*2,095,960*	*1,771,893*	*1,719,713*	*2,373,335*	*2,094,121*	*1,797,178*	*1,721,717*	
+ 225,848	641,392	615,868	531,649	536,059	711,858	674,299	600,692	591,343	5
+ 713,946	1,085,989	911,799	768,450	716,816	1,032,002	871,136	745,911	687,229	6
+ 301,352	568,777	508,727	415,248	425,955	572,951	500,966	405,524	414,421	7
+ 55,155	68,238	59,566	56,546	40,883	56,524	47,720	45,051	28,724	8
+ *1,174,985*	*4,698,032*	*4,388,601*	*4,179,429*	*4,018,585*	*4,432,040*	*4,220,406*	*4,101,464*	*3,936,502*	
+ 38,815	741,690	719,289	716,229	707,017	720,717	720,345	734,547	716,575	9
+ 136,984	823,972	774,380	746,378	740,517	743,108	708,190	696,140	689,579	10
+ 369,525	422,877	364,319	304,389	216,488	364,503	316,417	275,681	201,367	11
+ 495	1,125,109	1,061,812	1,067,701	1,096,911	1,029,072	1,003,652	1,030,263	1,056,775	12
+ 212,473	437,349	391,632	348,975	324,161	417,184	372,829	337,999	317,899	13
+ 209,991	709,396	677,252	647,749	601,952	711,965	683,971	662,855	608,518	14
+ 206,702	437,639	399,917	347,508	331,539	446,391	415,002	363,979	345,789	15
+ *836,150*	*1,573,102*	*1,471,146*	*1,294,932*	*1,109,095*	*1,511,425*	*1,408,105*	*1,251,309*	*1,056,878*	
+ 209,754	216,806	194,373	156,796	110,373	197,975	173,169	136,942	94,654	16
+ 10,812	27,355	9,306	10,140	15,000	13,457	9,635	9,980	15,000	17
+ 522,309	1,141,060	1,100,938	999,785	880,330	1,100,788	1,053,655	969,224	839,209	18
+ 61,894	97,221	94,606	79,765	67,852	105,029	103,298	88,039	72,504	19
+ 31,381	51,656	49,084	48,446	35,510	50,746	47,553	47,124	35,511	20
.....	39,004	22,839	.....	.....	43,430	20,795	.....	.....	21
+ *735,031*	*1,360,923*	*1,287,577*	*1,166,002*	*974,319*	*1,258,154*	*1,188,904*	*1,086,001*	*909,727*	
+ 74,711	242,685	236,863	229,383	193,670	219,367	215,910	217,317	193,671	22
+ 27,506	292,869	321,029	329,061	292,688	296,318	313,220	315,899	268,993	23
+ 101,593	176,030	161,220	142,257	122,693	161,283	146,220	130,755	113,027	24
+ 922	132,995	179,374	162,637	135,031	128,165	167,933	152,256	125,207	25
+ 280,170	316,989	252,687	206,329	165,545	280,984	227,972	186,216	152,254	26
+ 250,129	199,359	136,404	96,335	64,692	172,037	117,649	83,558	56,575	27
+ *37,494*	*70,035*	*61,213*	*55,951*	*50,390*	*68,239*	*60,357*	*53,597*	*50,390*	28
+ *138,063*	*232,127*	*71,596*	*161,015*	*18,262*	*225,663*	*65,846*	*155,692*	*17,000*	
+ 138,063	92,495	71,596	51,458	18,262	80,830	65,846	44,179	17,000	29
.....	139,632	.....	109,557	.....	143,833	.....	111,513	.....	30

TABLE III—

Serial No.	District or State.	Total population.			Hindu.*			Buddhist.		
		Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
	EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM	*30,961,459*	*15,771,904*	*15,189,555*	*11,639,491*	*5,994,115*	*5,645,376*	*173,275*	*90,014*	*83,261*
	(1) *British Territory*	*30,503,669*	*15,539,777*	*14,963,892*	*11,349,721*	*5,846,481*	*5,503,240*	*172,131*	*86,743*	*85,388*
	DACCA DIVISION	*10,793,988*	*5,473,289*	*5,320,699*	*3,524,811*	*1,784,293*	*1,740,518*	*7,274*	*3,791*	*3,483*
1	Dacca	2,649,522	1,312,417	1,337,105	988,296	487,384	500,912	30	26	4
2	Mymensingh	3,915,068	2,014,805	1,900,263	1,088,960	569,408	519,552	14	14	...
	Faridpur	1,937,646	970,164	967,482	733,638	360,052	373,586	10	10	...
4	Bakarganj	2,291,752	1,175,903	1,115,849	713,917	367,449	346,468	7,220	3,741	3,479
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION ...	*4,737,731*	*2,364,396*	*2,373,335*	*1,251,501*	*629,907*	*621,594*	*149,739*	*74,481*	*75,258*
5	Chittagong	1,353,250	641,392	711,858	318,309	152,656	165,653	64,973	29,854	35,119
6	Tippera	2,117,991	1,085,089	1,032,902	622,339	318,739	303,600	1,340	655	685
7	Noakhali	1,141,728	568,777	572,951	274,487	138,622	135,865	289	162	127
8	Chittagong Hill Tracts ...	124,762	68,238	56,524	36,366	19,890	16,476	83,137	43,810	39,327
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION ...	*9,130,072*	*4,698,032*	*4,432,040*	*3,314,527*	*1,738,537*	*1,575,990*	*6,352*	*3,363*	*2,989*
9	Rajshahi	1,462,407	741,690	720,717	325,129	170,446	154,683	19	19	...
10	Dinajpur	1,567,080	823,972	743,108	726,429	384,609	341,820	...	...	...
11	Jalpaiguri	787,380	422,877	364,503	534,636	287,803	246,833	6,291	3,303	2,988
13	Rangpur	2,154,181	1,125,109	1,029,072	776,661	413,345	363,316	38	38	...
13	Bogra	854,533	437,349	417,184	154,154	83,556	70,598	2	2	...
14	Pabna	1,420,461	709,396	711,065	357,118	177,538	179,580	2	1	1
15	Malda	884,930	437,639	446,391	440,400	221,240	219,160	...	...	...
	SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS.	*3,084,527*	*1,573,102*	*1,511,425*	*1,364,377*	*704,584*	*659,793*	*554*	*381*	*173*
16	Cachar (plains)	414,781	216,806	197,975	279,013	145,400	133,613	14	13	1
17	North Cachar Hills	40,812	27,355	13,457	23,908	16,297	7,611	9	8	1
18	Sylhet	2,241,848	1,141,060	1,100,788	1,049,295	534,003	515,292	7	4	3
19	Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	202,250	97,221	105,029	5,437	3,838	1,599	55	54	1
20	Naga Hills	102,402	51,656	50,746	3,351	2,407	944	337	226	111
21	Lushai ,, ...	82,434	39,004	43,430	3,373	2,639	734	132	76	56
	ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS ...	*2,619,077*	*1,360,923*	*1,258,154*	*1,381,231*	*931,927*	*899,304*	*7,940*	*4,567*	*3,373*
22	Goalpara	462,052	242,685	219,367	203,746	109,567	94,179	346	216	130
23	Kamrup	589,187	292,869	296,318	407,379	203,965	203,414	811	549	262
24	Darrang	337,313	176,080	161,233	239,353	125,421	113,932	494	423	71
25	Nowgong	261,160	132,995	128,165	167,716	85,270	82,446	49	48	1
26	Sibsagar	597,969	316,985	280,984	529,516	279,935	249,581	1,668	902	766
27	Lakhimpur	371,396	199,359	172,037	333,521	177,769	155,752	4,572	2,429	2,143
28	GARO HILLS	*138,274*	*70,035*	*68,239*	*13,274*	*7,233*	*6,041*	*272*	*160*	*112*
	(2) *Feudatory States*	*457,790*	*232,127*	*225,663*	*289,770*	*147,634*	*142,136*	*6,144*	*3,271*	*2,873*
29	Hill Tippera	173,325	92,495	80,830	119,193	63,148	56,045	5,999	3,200	2,799
30	Manipur	284,465	139,632	144,833	170,577	84,486	86,091	145	71	74

* Hindu includes Brahmo males, 595,

1906.]

Religion.

Musalman.			Christian.			Animistic.			Others (including Sikh, Jain, Parsi, Jew, and Minor).			Serial No.
Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	
17,868,452	*9,056,937*	*8,811,515*	*66,076*	*33,524*	*32,552*	*1,204,305*	*593,272*	*611,033*	*2,558*	*2,178*	*380*	
17,812,746	*9,027,025*	*8,785,721*	*65,894*	*33,414*	*32,480*	*1,098,325*	*542,080*	*556,245*	*2,558*	*2,178*	*380*	
7,209,562	*3,658,918*	*3,550,644*	*23,079*	*11,340*	*11,739*	*28,959*	*14,678*	*14,281*	*303*	*269*	*34*	
1,649,639	819,587	830,052	11,556	5,419	6,137	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
2,795,548	1,429,764	1,365,784	1,291	679	612	28,958	14,677	14,281	297	263	34	2
1,199,351	607,688	591,663	4,641	2,408	2,233	.....	...	...	6	6	...	3
1,565,024	801,879	763,145	5,591	2,834	2,757	.....	...	...	...	...	...	4
3,333,326	*1,658,298*	*1,675,028*	*2,443*	*1,296*	*1,147*	*706*	*405*	*301*	*16*	*9*	7	
968,054	457,846	510,208	1,237	660	577	661	367	294	16	9	7	5
1,494,020	766,433	727,587	292	162	130	.....	...	...	...	...	...	6
866,290	429,653	436,637	662	340	322	.....	...	...	...	...	...	7
4,962	4,366	596	252	134	118	45	38	7	...	...	...	8
5,698,924	*2,898,334*	*2,800,590*	*4,448*	*2,345*	*2,103*	*103,633*	*53,585*	*50,048*	*2,188*	*1,868*	*320*	
1,135,202	570,153	565,049	351	182	169	1,653	849	804	53	41	12	9
776,737	406,359	370,378	779	406	373	62,913	32,432	30,481	222	166	56	10
228,487	122,105	106,382	2,486	1,291	1,195	15,236	8,146	7,090	244	229	15	11
1,371,430	708,105	663,325	453	245	208	4,292	2,213	2,079	1,307	1,163	144	12
699,185	353,152	346,033	40	21	19	1,063	536	527	89	82	7	13
1,062,914	531,577	531,337	166	101	65	.....	...	...	261	179	82	14
424,969	206,883	218,086	173	99	74	18,476	9,409	9,067	12	8	4	15
1,314,288	*674,458*	*639,830*	*19,751*	*9,651*	*10,100*	*385,135*	*183,641*	*201,494*	*34*	*22*	*12*	
126,698	67,055	59,643	957	534	423	8,079	3,787	4,292	...	...	...	16
5,804	5,544	260	83	59	24	10,839	5,278	5,561	2	2	...	17
1,180,324	600,680	579,644	744	463	281	11,337	5,787	5,550	...	...	...	18
1,118	878	240	17,321	8,267	9,054	178,275	84,154	94,121	32	20	12	19
142	106	36	601	297	304	97,948	48,597	49,351	...	...	...	20
202	195	7	45	31	14	78,657	36,038	42,619	...	...	...	21
248,842	*132,874*	*115,968*	*12,526*	*6,828*	*5,698*	*466,618*	*233,229*	*233,389*	*17*	*10*	7	
128,388	67,976	60,412	3,495	1,813	1,682	125,618	62,735	62,883	...	...	...	22
53,701	27,408	26,293	1,479	805	674	125,599	59,967	65,632	9	7	2	23
17,372	9,424	7,948	1,358	750	608	78,458	39,767	38,691	...	...	...	24
12,578	6,784	5,794	593	305	288	79,767	40,290	39,477	...	...	...	25
24,878	13,807	11,071	2,489	1,384	1,105	39,203	20,788	18,415	1	...	1	26
11,925	7,475	4,450	3,112	1,771	1,341	17,973	9,682	8,291	7	3	4	27
7,804	*4,143*	*3,661*	*3,647*	*1,954*	*1,693*	*113,274*	*56,542*	*56,732*	...	...	...	28
55,706	*29,912*	*25,794*	*182*	*110*	*72*	*105,980*	*51,192*	*54,788*	...	...	...	
45,323	24,734	20,589	137	76	61	2,673	1,337	1,336	...	...	...	29
10,383	5,178	5,205	45	34	11	103,307	49,855	53,452	...	...	...	30

females, 490- total 1,085.

TABLE No. IV—*Age, Sex*

Districts.	All ages.						0—5.			
	Unmarried		Married.		Widowed.		Unmarried.		Married.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM ...	*3,426,697*	*5,595,086*	*6,801,473*	*6,786,268*	*553,734*	*2,798,101*	*2,250,343*	*2,377,692*	*6,298*	*17,395*
(1) *British Territory*	*3,302,663*	*5,495,563*	*6,702,535*	*6,691,497*	*544,579*	*2,766,732*	*2,214,402*	*2,340,764*	*6,281*	*17,949*
DACCA DIVISION	*2,890,933*	*1,881,759*	*2,416,551*	*2,441,143*	*165,805*	*997,797*	*783,484*	*830,763*	*2,687*	*8,535*
Dacca	710,930	487,382	565,665	593,948	35,822	255,775	196,376	208,431	488	1,814
Mymensingh	1,106,008	724,121	855,696	847,131	53,101	329,011	287,058	308,854	804	1,467
Faridpur	498,203	297,611	439,832	458,420	32,120	211,451	137,333	143,619	604	2,511
Bakarganj	575,792	372,645	555,358	541,644	41,753	201,560	162,717	169,859	731	3,243
CHITTAGONG DIVISION	*1,357,750*	*962,967*	*949,227*	*1,028,946*	*57,419*	*381,422*	*364,437*	*377,852*	*852*	*1,919*
Chittagong	399,591	285,037	226,094	289,956	15,707	137,765	103,277	103,589	126	331
Tippera	596,985	416,520	464,666	459,527	24,338	155,955	157,984	169,483	499	1,069
Noakhali	325,191	233,475	228,906	255,847	14,680	83,629	93,601	95,383	212	496
Chittagong Hill Tracts	35,983	27,935	29,561	24,516	2,694	4,073	9,575	9,397	15	23
RAJSHAHI DIVISION	*2,387,017*	*1,500,187*	*2,141,983*	*2,049,230*	*169,032*	*882,623*	*639,606*	*657,700*	*2,649*	*7,310*
Rajshahi	369,306	224,282	349,280	342,495	23,124	153,990	98,664	107,463	279	975
Dinajpur	420,866	267,935	369,315	347,563	33,791	127,610	109,848	118,131	595	1,166
Jalpaiguri	218,977	138,935	182,678	164,645	21,222	60,923	52,446	54,570	281	575
Rangpur	576,175	329,461	504,513	476,448	44,421	223,163	151,091	161,803	563	2,186
Bogra	210,100	149,371	211,905	202,201	15,344	165,612	62,351	63,792	311	742
Pabna	372,213	242,429	320,158	319,008	17,025	149,628	100,564	108,750	360	993
Malda	219,380	147,824	204,154	196,870	14,105	101,697	64,842	68,251	260	673
SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS	*891,850*	*585,828*	*619,616*	*624,160*	*61,636*	*301,437*	*213,781*	*223,157*	*58*	*112*
Cachar (plains)	114,441	75,204	92,774	89,091	9,591	33,680	29,062	29,056	3	13
North Cachar Hills	11,281	5,793	14,864	5,676	1,210	1,988	1,907	1,982	...	...
Sylhet	665,093	412,343	435,373	454,798	40,594	233,047	155,021	162,891	55	99
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	53,816	49,381	38,347	38,190	5,058	17,468	15,182	16,255	...	...
Naga Hills	25,202	21,125	22,504	21,601	3,950	7,930	6,461	6,800	.	...
Lushai Hills	22,017	21,982	15,754	14,714	1,233	6,734	6,148	6,673	...	...
ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS ...	*737,426*	*535,184*	*544,346*	*514,331*	*79,151*	*198,539*	*200,792*	*209,390*	*29*	*70*
Goalpara	132,790	86,295	100,796	93,240	8,899	39,792	36,390	38,438	1	11
Kamrup	170,692	127,305	103,871	115,382	13,306	53,631	49,435	51,454	18	43
Darrang	90,413	67,466	72,664	68,329	12,853	25,488	24,462	24,754	1	11
Nowgong	74,803	58,101	43,530	45,475	8,662	24,589	20,590	21,372	...	...
Sibsagar	160,962	128,253	125,755	117,580	21,248	35,146	43,442	45,232	.	2
Lakhimpur	98,746	77,769	86,530	74,285	14,033	19,993	26,473	28,230	9	3
GARO HILLS	*37,687*	*29,638*	*30,812*	*33,657*	*1,536*	*4,914*	*12,102*	*11,842*	*6*	*3*
(2) *Feudatory States*	*124,034*	*99,523*	*98,938*	*94,771*	*9,155*	*31,369*	*35,941*	*36,928*	*17*	*46*
Hill Tippera	47,035	35,223	41,007	35,777	3,563	9,830	13,304	13,730	17	44
Manipur	76,999	64,300	57,931	58,994	5,602	21,539	22,637	23,198	...	2

1906.]

and Civil Condition.

5—10.								10—15.					
Widowed.		Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.		Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
297	*2,437*	*2,509,871*	*2,293,825*	*25,153*	*185,752*	*1,357*	*10,816*	*1,795,992*	*726,377*	*102,472*	*472,365*	*3,178*	*30,065*
293	*2,482*	*2,475,394*	*2,260,781*	*24,976*	*185,374*	*1,336*	*10,739*	*1,772,331*	*708,007*	*102,023*	*469,006*	*3,162*	*29,932*
97	*1,031*	*351,745*	*736,682*	*10,199*	*74,083*	*518*	*4,129*	*653,829*	*227,261*	*41,557*	*324,922*	*1,280*	*11,898*
34	256	209,424	199,602	1,568	12,006	112	822	168,023	69,251	7,843	74,614	198	2,731
30	253	333,637	319,055	2,502	19,173	107	1,112	233,621	80,366	10,388	102,602	176	3,702
14	232	140,162	116,663	2,477	22,395	101	955	120,823	32,442	9,648	73,707	325	2,921
19	290	164,522	151,362	3,652	20,509	198	1,230	130,462	45,202	13,678	73,999	581	2,544
22	*320*	*401,872*	*391,200*	*2,376*	*13,576*	*124*	*1,140*	*316,919*	*165,332*	*8,602*	*99,224*	*199*	*3,503*
3	95	116,031	113,928	348	1,747	17	266	97,277	56,793	1,104	23,198	38	984
10	132	177,048	172,275	1,402	8,094	66	556	133,185	64,792	5,197	48,191	80	1,485
9	89	99,061	95,918	599	3,701	40	307	76,121	37,895	2,221	27,498	77	1,029
...		9,682	9,079	27	34	1	11	7,336	5,852	80	337	4	5
166	*1,059*	*768,395*	*649,997*	*9,893*	*85,139*	*504*	*4,429*	*488,051*	*127,691*	*42,954*	*261,668*	*1,176*	*10,541*
11	136	122,338	93,203	1,397	18,971	50	671	86,279	15,637	6,258	47,502	214	2,088
41	136	140,892	118,725	2,285	11,985	117	655	76,366	24,095	9,663	37,670	276	1,384
14	102	62,900	55,203	871	4,076	50	270	42,612	19,671	2,354	14,332	83	570
26	301	178,260	141,357	1,888	25,472	135	1,260	108,594	20,758	7,824	66,306	177	2,462
13	74	75,481	67,715	1,395	7,608	58	461	42,304	10,267	6,697	26,796	146	821
50	188	118,645	107,902	1,006	9,056	34	580	84,323	21,808	4,187	42,974	69	1,490
11	122	69,859	60,712	1,051	7,971	60	532	47,573	15,455	5,371	26,088	211	1,726
9	*49*	*239,968*	*232,797*	*1,113*	*7,159*	*111*	*647*	*186,685*	*91,724*	*3,889*	*57,039*	*187*	*2,785*
...	1	31,379	29,565	205	929	8	72	24,603	12,762	993	7,353	41	341
...	...	1,766	1,586	11	25	3	7	1,553	1,094	99	155	10	12
9	48	189,358	175,478	842	6,142	94	562	140,583	59,322	2,661	48,869	126	2,356
...	...	14,107	13,771	31	34	6	3	11,638	10,666	73	482	9	62
...	...	7,430	6,889	2	8	...	...	4,400	3,884	6	101	...	5
...	...	4,928	5,508	19	21	...	3	3,903	4,056	57	99	1	9
2	*23*	*201,999*	*189,835*	*1,322*	*4,894*	*76*	*379*	*119,640*	*91,125*	*4,561*	*23,913*	*306*	*1,139*
...	10	39,687	35,186	320	2,561	18	207	23,504	9,358	1,327	10,103	27	488
...	9	49,335	46,187	320	1,104	11	74	32,284	21,017	1,008	5,761	54	248
...	...	24,986	23,903	162	321	10	43	16,855	12,337	672	2,276	36	137
...	...	19,833	19,710	50	59	2	13	13,746	9,687	238	998	41	64
...	4	43,920	41,515	278	487	24	42	33,161	25,228	781	2,978	94	109
2	...	24,948	23,334	183	362	11	19	17,764	13,498	535	1,797	54	93
...	...	*11,415*	*10,270*	*76*	*523*	*3*	*16*	*7,257*	*2,874*	*460*	*2,240*	*14*	*66*
1	*5*	*34,477*	*33,044*	*177*	*378*	*21*	*77*	*23,611*	*18,370*	*449*	*3,359*	*16*	*13*
1	5	13,936	13,342	57	279	2	31	9,866	6,162	284	2,760	11	96
...	...	20,491	19,702	120	99	19	46	13,745	12,208	165	599	5	37

TABLE IV—*Age*,

Districts.	15—20.						20-40			
	Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.		Unmarried.		Married.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM ...	*955,723*	*109,096*	*313,373*	*1,265,820*	*8,567*	*74,034*	*825,103*	*80,703*	*3,861,256*	*3,794,604*
(1) *British Territory*	*941,209*	*102,029*	*310,658*	*1,253,585*	*8,790*	*73,278*	*810,658*	*77,121*	*3,807,164*	*3,737,628*
DACCA DIVISION	*337,109*	*15,727*	*125,810*	*489,148*	*2,827*	*26,379*	*243,514*	*16,515*	*1,360,284*	*1,290,978*
Dacca	81,580	4,381	28,005	116,495	530	6,515	50,473	4,050	317,253	320,907
Mymensingh	130,596	7,366	41,864	176,397	817	9,555	107,854	6,925	495,641	465,702
Faridpur	55,293	1,731	23,064	84,210	515	5,521	40,610	2,475	212,212	229,025
Bakarganj	69,640	2,249	31,977	112,046	965	4,788	44,577	3,056	305,178	275,344
CHITTAGONG DIVISION	*168,243*	*17,500*	*37,835*	*206,121*	*658*	*11,389*	*99,702*	*8,796*	*529,391*	*582,009*
Chittagong	51,029	6,498	5,970	57,700	112	3,735	29,848	3,394	120,875	168,118
Tippera	73,972	5,704	20,746	92,014	283	4,593	48,759	3,380	266,582	258,096
Noakhali	37,855	2,532	10,314	53,261	239	2,985	17,271	1,294	124,802	140,339
Chittagong Hill Tracts	5,317	2,766	805	3,146	24	76	3,824	727	17,132	15,456
RAJSHAHI DIVISION	*245,388*	*14,954*	*113,412*	*375,122*	*3,231*	*21,149*	*226,872*	*15,939*	*1,218,069*	*1,125,698*
Rajshahi	35,840	948	19,079	60,092	562	3,365	24,037	1,484	204,498	185,840
Dinajpur	46,212	3,345	18,811	65,189	755	2 920	44,422	2,903	209,751	199,376
Jalpaiguri	25,111	4,564	7,266	25,705	282	1,534	33,377	4,291	102,441	98,983
Rangpur	60,089	1,919	22,882	88,811	570	5,526	72,391	2,822	285,413	256,812
Bogra	16,912	952	14,261	39,836	292	1 567	12,096	1,237	120,265	108,940
Pabna	38,517	1,414	15,165	57,145	251	2,800	27,419	1,966	180,212	174,471
Malda	22,707	1,812	15,948	38,344	519	3,471	13,220	1,236	115,489	102,237
SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS	*109,487*	*20,654*	*17,110*	*116,525*	*730*	*9,825*	*131,697*	*14,892*	*362,536*	*373,958*
Cachar (plains)	13,159	2,399	3,259	15,103	147	1,168	15,301	1,282	56,142	54,992
North Cachar Hills	1,572	722	440	736	23	63	4,194	351	10,572	3,935
Sylhet	81,525	6,967	11,708	94,364	380	7,595	99,386	6,869	251,425	265,804
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	7,135	5,251	1,256	4,286	122	797	5,445	3,101	23,292	24,895
Naga Hills	3,046	2,196	167	1,167	34	163	3,638	1,251	12,590	14,427
Lushai ,, ...	3,050	3,119	280	889	24	130	3,783	2,038	8,515	9,905
ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS	*77,317*	*31,494*	*14,834*	*61,245*	*1,299*	*4,319*	*105,899*	*20,218*	*319,826*	*346,372*
Goalpara	13,932	1,874	4,078	16,740	118	1,283	17,828	1,140	55,138	51,926
Kamrup	16,890	5,237	2,705	15,177	156	836	20,023	2,097	60,144	76,587
Darrang	8,726	3,690	1,956	6,596	190	532	14,226	2,562	44,226	48,558
Nowgong	7,718	4,208	1,167	4,947	131	636	12,046	2,812	28,410	31,571
Sibsagar	20,123	10,381	2,672	10,889	500	549	27,780	5,270	76,345	83,559
Lakhimpur	9,928	6,104	2,276	6,946	204	463	15,146	5,728	56,563	54,171
GARO HILLS	*3,665*	*1,700*	*1,657*	*5,424*	*45*	*223*	*2,074*	*762*	*17,053*	*18,723*
(2) *Feudatory States*	*14,514*	*7,067*	*2,715*	*12,235*	*77*	*756*	*14,445*	*3,582*	*54,092*	*56,976*
Hill Tippera	5,696	1,427	1,648	6,870	32	327	4,776	480	24,733	31,047
Manipur	8,818	5,640	1,067	5,365	45	429	9,670	3,102	29,359	25,929

Sex, and Civil Condition.

		40—60.						60 and over.					
Widowed.		Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.		Unmarried.		Married.		Widowed.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
180,154	*839,607*	*54,176*	*13,692*	*1,974,034*	*685,848*	*206,826*	*1,206,514*	*12,445*	*3,701*	*517,887*	*62,664*	*143,075*	*634,389*
177,407	*831,918*	*53,374*	*13,324*	*1,941,234*	*666,446*	*203,303*	*1,193,918*	*12,201*	*3,537*	*509,199*	*60,289*	*140,305*	*624,276*
47,689	*282,915*	*16,948*	*3,790*	*680,904*	*232,739*	*61,954*	*426,723*	*4,304*	*1,021*	*195,110*	*20,738*	*51,440*	*244,723*
9,204	70,922	4,064	1,347	161,672	62,710	13,316	108,411	1,090	311	48,836	5,902	12,428	66,118
17,545	95,690	6,770	1,180	238,367	74,664	20,147	140,159	1,472	375	66,130	7,126	14,279	78,540
8,984	61,521	3,035	539	124,349	42,542	11,992	88,719	947	142	36,518	4,030	11,098	51,582
12,856	54,782	3,079	724	156,516	52,823	16,499	89,434	795	193	43,626	3,680	13,635	46,483
15,434	*103,617*	*4,942*	*1,727*	*287,240*	*116,760*	*20,948*	*166,307*	*1,635*	*561*	*82,931*	*9,337*	*20,034*	*95,146*
4,107	37,145	1,608	621	76,133	35,499	6,270	61,572	401	214	21,538	2,463	5,160	33,968
6,714	43,653	2,254	691	132,736	47,873	8,678	68,053	783	195	37,504	4,190	8,507	37,483
3,827	22,192	903	350	69,287	28,570	5,050	35,147	379	103	21,471	1,982	5,438	21,880
786	627	177	65	9,084	4,818	950	1,535	72	49	2,418	702	929	1,815
57,369	*270,546*	*15,000*	*3,020*	*606,226*	*176,842*	*65,071*	*387,530*	*3,205*	*826*	*148,780*	*16,451*	*41,515*	*187,305*
8,422	45,845	1,496	318	95,969	26,999	8,415	70,830	332	89	21,180	2,107	5,450	31,055
13,126	39,159	2,595	607	104,942	29,652	12,684	58,768	531	129	23,268	2,525	6,792	24,588
7,353	19,676	2,136	420	55,788	18,734	8,625	25,615	395	126	13,677	2,240	4,815	13,156
14,178	73,297	4,839	645	149,678	34,007	18,284	96,745	911	157	36,265	2,824	11,051	43,572
4,777	19,290	861	334	55,092	16,769	5,905	28,745	185	74	13,884	1,510	4,153	14,694
4,600	40,379	2,147	441	93,392	31,344	6,376	66,282	598	148	25,836	3,025	5,645	37,909
4,913	32,900	926	255	51,365	19,337	4,782	40,615	253	103	14,670	2,220	3,609	22,331
22,459	*107,977*	*8,338*	*1,937*	*186,760*	*63,126*	*23,538*	*122,474*	*1,894*	*667*	*48,153*	*6,201*	*14,602*	*57,630*
3,776	12,069	806	149	26,311	9,830	3,651	14,035	131	51	5,861	871	1,968	5,994
680	796	267	52	3,302	731	355	783	22	6	440	94	139	327
13,171	83,973	6,597	1,011	132,497	36,659	16,019	94,873	1,618	305	36,185	2,861	10,795	44,330
2,256	6,377	262	275	11,110	7,346	1,770	6,613	47	62	2,585	1,147	895	3,601
1,963	2,598	202	86	8,087	5,258	1,378	3,407	25	19	1,652	730	575	1,758
613	2,164	204	364	5,453	3,302	365	2,758	51	224	1,430	498	230	1,670
33,927	*65,275*	*7,947*	*2,710*	*171,370*	*71,567*	*31,262*	*89,045*	*1,088*	*412*	*31,404*	*6,270*	*12,239*	*38,240*
2,909	12,518	1,176	229	31,544	10,496	3,529	15,583	183	61	8,579	1,443	2,298	9,703
3,908	15,417	1,614	621	37,782	15,706	6,017	25,687	211	92	6,894	1,004	3,160	11,340
5,982	9,277	1,049	273	22,677	9,936	5,221	11,758	109	47	2,990	531	1,514	3,741
3,522	8,573	795	268	16,855	7,182	3,767	10,652	86	44	2,810	718	1,199	4,651
9,684	11,382	1,950	535	38,730	18,063	8,994	17,000	356	107	6,949	1,652	2,852	6,060
7,912	8,308	1,344	784	23,782	10,134	4,624	8,365	143	61	3,182	872	1,276	2,745
529	*1,538*	*199*	*140*	*8,734*	*5,412*	*530*	*1,839*	*75*	*50*	*2,821*	*1,292*	*415*	*1,182*
2,747	*7,689*	*802*	*368*	*32,800*	*19,402*	*3,523*	*12,596*	*244*	*164*	*8,688*	*2,375*	*2,770*	*10,113*
1,211	2,817	253	67	11,493	4,336	1,342	3,949	55	15	2,775	441	954	2,605
1,536	4,872	549	301	21,307	15,066	2,181	8,647	189	149	5,913	1,934	1,816	7,508

TABLE V.—

Districts.	Population.								
	Total.			Literate.			Illiterate.		
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM.	*30,961,459*	*15,771,904*	*15,189,555*	*1,504,570*	*1,431,954*	*72,616*	*29,456,889*	*14,339,950*	*15,116,939*
(1) *British Territory*	*30,503,669*	*15,539,777*	*14,963,892*	*1,497,962*	*1,425,551*	*72,411*	*29,005,707*	*14,114,226*	*14,891,481*
DACCA DIVISION	*10,793,988*	*5,473,289*	*5,320,699*	*602,890*	*566,347*	*36,043*	*10,191,598*	*4,906,942*	*5,284,656*
Dacca	2,649,522	1,312,417	1,337,105	173,345	159,389	13,956	2,476,177	1,153,028	1,323,149
Mymensingh	3,915,068	2,014,805	1,900,263	146,386	139,586	6,800	3,768,682	1,875,219	1,893,463
Faridpur	1,937,646	970,164	967,482	99,866	94,067	5,799	1,837,780	876,097	961,683
Bakarganj	2,291,752	1,175,903	1,115,849	182,793	173,305	9,488	2,108,959	1,002,598	1,106,361
CHITTAGONG DIVISION ...	*4,737,731*	*2,364,396*	*2,373,335*	*281,763*	*271,448*	*10,315*	*4,455,968*	*2,092,948*	*2,363,020*
Chittagong	1,353,250	641,392	711,858	78,319	75,106	3,213	1,274,931	566,286	708,645
Tippera	2,117,991	1,085,989	1,032,002	136,190	131,250	4,940	1,981,801	954,739	1,027,062
Noakhali	1,141,728	568,777	572,951	61,678	59,673	2,005	1,080,050	509,104	570,946
Chittagong Hill Tracts... ...	124,762	68,238	56,524	5,576	5,419	157	119,186	62,819	56,367
RAJSHAHI DIVISION	*9,130,072*	*4,698,032*	*4,432,040*	*394,081*	*381,100*	*12,981*	*8,735,991*	*4,316,932*	*4,419,059*
Rajshahi	1,462,407	741,690	720,717	62,240	59,652	2,588	1,400,167	682,038	718,129
Dinajpur	1,567,080	823,972	743,108	83,612	81,658	1,954	1,483,468	742,314	741,154
Jalpaiguri	787,380	422,877	364,503	30,834	29,533	1,301	756,546	393,344	363,202
Rangpur	2,154,181	1,125,109	1,029,072	73,824	71,542	2,282	2,080,357	1,053,567	1,026,790
Bogra	854,533	437,349	417,184	43,004	41,872	1,132	811,529	395,477	416,052
Pabna	1,420,461	709,396	711,065	67,474	64,673	2,801	1,352,987	644,723	708,264
Malda	884,030	437,639	446,391	33,093	32,170	923	850,937	405,469	45,468
SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS.	*3,084,527*	*1,573,102*	*1,511,425*	*135,136*	*126,050*	*9,086*	*2,949,391*	*1,447,052*	*1,502,339*
Cachar (plains)	414,781	216,806	197,975	20,562	19,780	782	394,219	197,026	197,193
North Cachar Hills	40,812	27,355	13,457	2,139	2,076	63	38,673	25,279	13,394
Sylhet	2,241,848	1,141,060	1,100,788	97,519	92,968	4,551	2,144,329	1,048,092	1,096,237
Khasi and Jaintia Hills... ...	202,250	97,221	105,029	11,478	7,913	3,565	190,772	89,308	101,464
Naga Hills	102,402	51,656	50,746	1,380	1,308	72	101,022	50,348	50,674
Lushai	82,434	39,004	43,430	2,058	2,005	53	80,376	36,999	43,377
ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS ...	*2,619,077*	*1,360,923*	*1,258,154*	*83,423*	*79,583*	*3,840*	*2,535,654*	*1,281,340*	*1,254,314*
Goalpara	462,052	242,685	219,367	12,343	11,841	502	449,709	230,844	218,865
Kamrup	589,187	292,869	296,318	20,748	20,061	687	568,439	272,808	295,631
Darrang	337,313	176,080	161,283	9,551	9,077	474	327,762	166,953	160,809
Nowgong	261,160	132,995	128,165	7,309	7,117	192	253,851	125,878	127,973
Sibsagar	597,969	316,985	280,984	20,393	19,194	1,199	577,576	297,791	279,785
Lakhimpur	371,396	199,359	172,037	13,079	12,293	786	358,317	187,066	171,251
GARO HILLS	*138,274*	*70,035*	*68,239*	*1,169*	*1,023*	*146*	*137,105*	*69,012*	*68,093*
(2) *Feudatory States*	*457,790*	*232,127*	*225,663*	*6,608*	*6,403*	*205*	*451,182*	*225,724*	*225,458*
Hill Tippera	173,325	92,495	80,830	3,950	3,807	143	169,375	88,688	80,687
Manipur	284,465	139,632	144,833	2,658	2,596	62	281,807	137,036	144,771

Education.

Distribution of literate by age.								Districts.
0—10.		10—15.		15—20.		20 and over.		
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
72,232	*7,149*	*174,196*	*10,786*	*163,625*	*12,019*	*1,021,901*	*42,662*	*EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM.*
72,098	*7,119*	*173,764*	*10,761*	*163,013*	*11,987*	*1,016,676*	*42,544*	(1) *British Territory.*
29,957	*2,973*	*76,428*	*5,470*	*69,059*	*6,507*	*390,903*	*21,093*	DACCA DIVISION.
8,889	973	24,292	2,260	20,311	2,487	105,897	8,236	Dacca.
6,460	568	16,543	850	16,241	1,210	100,342	4,172	Mymensingh.
4,712	347	13,142	843	10,968	1,155	65,245	3,454	Faridpur.
9,896	1,085	22,451	1,517	21,539	1,655	119,419	5,231	Bakarganj.
10,463	*1,227*	*33,510*	*1,544*	*33,962*	*1,503*	*193,513*	*6,041*	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.
2,908	331	9,369	412	9,250	377	53,579	2,093	Chittagong.
5,858	598	17,354	802	17,003	808	91,035	2,732	Tippera.
1,623	285	6,543	315	7,215	299	44,292	1,106	Noakhali.
74	13	244	15	494	19	4,607	110	Chittagong Hill Tracts.
19,760	*1,433*	*40,826*	*1,736*	*38,482*	*1,901*	*282,032*	*7,911*	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.
2,901	265	7,123	351	5,956	344	43,672	1,628	Rajshahi.
4,842	294	7,933	235	8,239	292	60,644	1,133	Dinajpur.
1,398	208	2,642	221	2,821	176	22,672	696	Jalpaiguri.
3,053	274	6,164	308	6,488	332	55,837	1,368	Rangpur.
2,362	141	4,949	148	4,040	158	30,521	685	Bogra.
3,351	171	8,199	356	6,875	434	46,248	1,840	Pabna.
1,853	80	3,816	117	4,063	165	22,438	561	Malda.
7,968	*1,079*	*14,633*	*1,452*	*13,447*	*1,505*	*90,002*	*5,050*	SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS.
1,149	125	1,871	120	1,935	119	14,825	418	Cachar (plains).
10	2	32	4	117	7	1,917	50	North Cachar Hills.
6,226	640	11,463	614	9,935	679	65,344	2,618	Sylhet.
519	302	1,129	697	1,037	680	5,228	1,886	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.
38	6	60	10	126	11	1,084	45	Naga Hills.
26	4	78	7	297	9	1,604	33	Lushai ,,
3,918	*394*	*8,284*	*535*	*7,951*	*534*	*59,430*	*2,377*	ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS.
571	78	1,152	73	1,145	64	8,973	287	Goalpara.
1,265	67	2,488	111	2,286	114	14,022	395	Kamrup.
440	59	797	65	776	64	7,064	286	Darrang.
270	22	694	33	647	34	5,506	103	Nowgong.
941	107	2,145	170	2,043	180	14,065	742	Sibsagar.
431	61	1,008	83	1,054	78	9,800	564	Lakhimpur.
32	*13*	*83*	*24*	*112*	*37*	*796*	*72*	GARO HILLS.
134	*30*	*432*	*25*	*612*	*32*	*5,225*	*118*	(2) *Feudatory States.*
99	24	341	20	394	22	2,973	77	Hill Tippera.
35	6	91	5	218	10	2,252	41	Manipur.

TABLE VI.—

Serial No.	Name of district.	Class A.—Government.			Class B.—Pasture and Agriculture.		
		Actual workers.		Dependents, both sexes.	Actual workers.		Dependents, both sexes.
		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	
	EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM	*59,646*	*38*	*113,786*	*7,516,501*	*1,201,261*	*16,729,386*
	(1) *British Territory*	*56,864*	*38*	*111,930*	*7,395,745*	*1,152,138*	*15,533,129*
	DACCA DIVISION	*18,025*	...	*44,150*	*2,434,518*	*66,864*	*5,739,375*
1	Dacca	5,229	...	17,336	500,568	15,509	1,223,090
2	Mymensingh	6,084	...	11,630	985,273	26,878	2,131,905
3	Faridpur	2,525	...	5,981	423,237	9,882	1,067,910
	Bakarganj	4,187	...	9,203	525,440	14,595	1,316,470
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	*9,450*	...	*23,770*	*967,584*	*63,464*	*2,465,852*
5	Chittagong	4,413	...	11,899	194,503	16,654	600,941
6	Tippera	2,688	...	5,943	493,828	12,094	1,169,798
7	Noakhali	2,109	...	5,717	237,555	8,381	647,989
8	Chittagong Hill Tracts	240	...	211	41,698	31,335	47,124
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	*14,979*	...	*27,004*	*2,427,554*	*147,950*	*4,797,888*
9	Rajshahi	2,790	...	5,420	388,449	18,290	706,285
10	Dinajpur	2,303	...	3,666	466,365	12,372	894,605
11	Jalpaiguri	1,521	...	1,437	245,391	52,684	408,011
12	Rangpur	3,033	...	5,366	598,090	8,496	1,225,401
13	Bogra	1,056	...	2,420	227,177	8,028	515,213
14	Pabna	2,579	...	5,235	293,375	9,142	673,367
15	Malda	1,697	...	3,460	208,707	38,938	375,006
	SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS ...	*9,062*	*38*	*11,005*	*786,540*	*266,853*	*1,493,749*
16	Cachar (plains)	1,683	...	1,531	120,544	58,355	190,227
17	North Cachar Hills	134	...	48	6,053	4,791	9,503
18	Sylhet	3,070	...	5,700	560,855	100,851	1,167,241
19	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	1,411	...	1,079	46,244	47,359	69,038
20	Naga Hills	1,388	...	1,000	31,793	33,056	31,210
21	Lushai Hills	1,376	38	1,647	21,046	22,441	33,530
	ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS	*5,002*	...	*5,687*	*738,903*	*566,407*	*979,991*
22	Goalpara	694	...	953	119,886	42,978	224,576
23	Kamrup	975	...	1,315	140,637	100,964	238,310
24	Darrang	573	...	619	104,998	93,832	112,688
25	Nowgong	368	...	385	73,945	67,811	93,995
26	Sibsagar	819	...	1,118	186,067	158,799	200,582
27	Lakhimpur	1,573	...	1,297	113,370	102,083	109,634
28	GARO HILLS	*346*	...	*314*	*40,646*	*35,540*	*56,274*
	(2) *Feudatory States*	*2,682*	...	*1,856*	*120,756*	*49,123*	*136,257*
29	Hill Tippera	699	...	502	53,415	24,011	81,445
30	Manipur	1,983	...	1 354	67,341	25,112	114,812

1906.]

Occupations.

Class C.—Personal services.			Class D.—Preparation and supply of material substances.			Class E.—Commerce, Transport and storage.			Serial No.
Actual workers.		Dependents, both sexes.	Actual workers.		Dependents, both sexes.	Actual workers.		Dependents, both sexes.	
Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		
168,776	*36,249*	*236,121*	*958,181*	*417,386*	*1,818,482*	*244,300*	*10,103*	*318,462*	
167,541	*36,044*	*234,827*	*952,998*	*367,228*	*1,804,995*	*242,596*	*9,875*	*316,919*	
67,706	*12,653*	*109,284*	*428,188*	*66,354*	*852,628*	*104,961*	*3,349*	*150,409*	
20,786	4,728	38,304	143,042	21,836	328,137	39,047	1,383	72,113	1
20,366	4,292	27,382	129,513	24,632	243,249	32,871	970	38,332	2
10,741	2,109	18,462	75,844	8,428	153,535	17,577	664	27,373	3
15,813	1,524	24,636	79,789	11,453	127,657	15,466	332	12,591	4
29,644	*4,062*	*54,639*	*135,493*	*53,188*	*289,936*	*30,008*	*1,264*	*69,594*	
11,889	1,813	22,202	42,405	40,398	110,158	11,579	284	36,175	5
10,136	1,124	17,608	65,343	6,862	122,271	14,422	884	26,326	6
7,418	1,053	14,805	26,850	5,832	57,396	3,444	85	6,947	7
201	72	24	895	96	111	563	11	146	8
33,079	*11,447*	*41,760*	*252,607*	*178,368*	*452,089*	*60,914*	*2,221*	*63,080*	
4,467	2,791	6,561	47,862	60,800	76,634	7,421	99	9,256	9
3,734	1,072	3,924	22,945	20,293	33,588	4,891	339	4,707	10
3,045	357	1,896	14,317	7,495	14,674	4,825	263	2,489	11
7,974	1,655	9,707	40,318	18,810	65,772	16,050	549	10,432	12
2,044	647	2,645	16,661	5,642	32,329	2,906	284	3,584	13
8,271	2,881	12,049	71,376	13,868	152,410	20,384	418	27,749	14
3,544	2,094	4,978	39,128	51,460	76,682	4,437	269	4,863	15
19,066	*4,342*	*19,781*	*85,781*	*38,143*	*146,962*	*21,934*	*1,396*	*20,104*	
3,279	407	1 925	6,631	5,227	5,550	3,534	182	1,808	16
764	55	123	1,913	71	194	2,612	28	403	17
13,299	3,171	16,940	73,435	28,503	135,617	13,857	576	16,245	18
1,266	677	610	3,020	3,959	5,129	1,410	583	1,427	19
284	17	123	531	263	240	246	2	123	20
174	15	60	251	120	232	275	25	98	21
17,582	*3,521*	*9,243*	*50,043*	*30,218*	*62,434*	*24,615*	*1,618*	*13,498*	
2,875	424	2,239	11,672	9,915	15,556	4,887	153	2,363	22
3,192	814	2,808	13,908	9,372	27,592	3,646	118	3,595	23
2,528	405	944	4,616	1,689	3,302	2,458	112	867	24
1,660	654	553	3,628	2,523	2,754	2,222	151	880	25
4,276	740	1,495	7,857	3,973	7,788	5,813	670	3,063	26
3,051	484	1,204	8,362	2,746	5,442	5,589	414	2,730	27
464	*19*	*120*	*886*	*957*	*946*	*764*	*27*	*234*	28
1,235	*205*	*1,294*	*5,158*	*50,158*	*13,487*	*1,704*	*228*	*1,543*	
642	120	715	1,799	2,804	1,237	380	22	166	29
593	85	579	3,384	47,354	12,250	1,324	206	1,377	30

TABLE VI.—*Occupations.*

Serial No.	Name of district.	Class F—Professions.			Class G.—Unskilled labour, not Agricultural.			Class H—Means of subsistence independent of occupation.		
		Actual workers.		Dependents, both sexes.	Actual workers.		Dependents, both sexes.	Actual workers.		Dependents, both sexes.
		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	
	EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM ...	*173,894*	*25,533*	*327,354*	*490,655*	*73,925*	*718,182*	*92,666*	*97,931*	*123,441*
	(1) *British Territory*	*171,191*	*25,326*	*324,078*	*488,628*	*73,448*	*716,807*	*91,853*	*97,319*	*122,859*
	DACCA DIVISION	*66,877*	*7,214*	*143,713*	*148,031*	*17,457*	*333,793*	*24,464*	*24,824*	*29,161*
1	Dacca	19,661	1,741	50,287	42,373	3,934	77,377	6,086	8,948	7,407
2	Mymensingh	17,540	1,846	31,017	56,005	9,649	80,946	10,516	9,658	14,014
3	Faridpur	12,084	2,540	27,764	21,664	1,879	36,910	3,351	3,516	3,670
4	Bakarganj	17,592	1,087	34,695	27,989	1,995	38,560	3,901	2,702	4,070
	CHITTAGONG DIVISION	*38,240*	*3,251*	*81,570*	*115,847*	*5,457*	*224,576*	*15,661*	*22,022*	*29,159*
5	Chittagong	15,087	417	37,004	48,310	2,770	114,121	5,817	13,075	11,336
6	Tippera	15,461	1,213	30,025	41,858	2,217	58,947	5,251	5,001	8,601
7	Noakhali	7,542	1,614	14,453	24,759	383	51,149	4,384	3,745	9,118
8	Chittagong Hill Tracts	150	7	88	920	87	359	209	111	104
	RAJSHAHI DIVISION	*37,907*	*13,125*	*48,609*	*171,735*	*29,308*	*222,142*	*30,186*	*22,081*	*33,739*
9	Rajshahi	7,701	3,370	11,449	32,249	5,994	47,411	6,590	3,898	6,320
10	Dinajpur	5,369	2,306	5,440	30,110	5,473	34,653	3,266	2,330	3,329
11	Jalpaiguri	2,160	439	2,201	10,586	1,329	7,092	2,229	1,194	1,745
12	Rangpur	10,573	2,850	13,624	44,740	3,492	39,672	9,217	6,752	11,608
13	Bogra	2,671	1,479	5,078	6,080	1,679	7,915	2,812	2,304	3,879
14	Pabna	7,191	1,455	16,233	28,769	2,951	57,477	4,339	3,913	5,079
15	Malda	2,242	1,236	4,584	19,201	8,390	27,922	1,733	1,690	1,779
	SURMA VALLEY AND HILL DISTRICTS	*17,735*	*1,266*	*33,114*	*31,056*	*14,763*	*96,832*	*11,023*	*10,355*	*19,622*
16	Cachar (plains)	1,702	82	1,967	2,477	1,248	1,871	1,768	1,449	1,334
17	North Cachar Hills	93	4	15	11,031	1,756	1,141	34	31	10
18	Sylhet	14,742	1,004	29,431	11,297	3,038	14,810	8,447	8,023	11,696
19	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	741	160	1,394	5,611	8,620	8,900	220	59	333
20	Naga Hills	133	4	188	174	96	94	497	756	184
21	Lushai ,, ...	324	12	119	466	10	16	57	37	65
	ASSAM VALLEY DISTRICTS	*10,325*	*462*	*16,972*	*21,327*	*6,833*	*9,116*	*10,339*	*17,926*	*17,005*
22	Goalpara	1,769	100	2,267	5,908	1,206	3,540	1,992	2,811	3,268
23	Kamrup	3,716	156	7,078	3,061	484	2,936	4,069	10,219	10,216
24	Darrang	711	30	1,112	1,288	208	278	1,067	1,752	1,236
25	Nowgong	742	35	1,106	3,305	1,422	405	547	1,184	885
26	Sibsagar	2,239	110	3,649	3,020	1,118	716	1,329	1,316	912
27	Lakhimpur	1,148	31	1,740	5,245	1,795	1,241	885	644	488
28	GARO HILLS	*107*	*8*	*100*	*132*	*225*	*348*	*140*	*104*	*173*
	(2) *Feudatory States*	*2,703*	*207*	*3,276*	*2,027*	*477*	*1,375*	*813*	*619*	*582*
29	Hill Tippera	682	65	557	1,616	374	1,025	393	331	325
30	Manipur	2,021	142	2,719	411	103	350	420	288	257

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration.

261. The most important event of the year was, as mentioned above, the creation of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam under a Lieutenant-Governor, who has been authorized to form a Legislative Council, consisting of 15 Councillors, to assist him in making Laws and Regulations. For the administration of the Province, a Board of Revenue with two members was established, a new Divisional Commissionership, comprising the Surma Valley and all the Hill Districts (with the exception of the Garo Hills), was formed, while the Secretariat and Departmental staffs were considerably enlarged. An additional Judgeship was created for Sylhet, Cachar and Bakarganj; Jalpaiguri, which under the Government of Bengal was included in the Judgeship of Rangpur, was transferred to that of Dinajpur; and the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar was relieved of his higher civil powers, which were transferred to the District Judge of Sylhet. The jurisdiction of the Forest Department was enlarged by the addition of three Forest Divisions; the Inspecting staff of the Educational Department was increased by the transfer of 14 additional Deputy Inspectors and two Inspectors; while the province was divided, for police purposes, into two ranges, each under a Deputy Inspector General, who acts directly under the control of the Inspector General. Among other administrative changes of the year may be mentioned the addition of a British officer to the Military Police as Assistant Commandant of the Naga Hills, and the complete reorganisation of the Registration Department which has been detailed in the chapter dealing with that branch of the administration.

SECTION 8.—Frontier Relations and Feudatory States.

262. The only Feudatory States with which the Local Government has political relations are the petty States in the Khasi Hills, Manipur and Hill Tippera. Of the first, sufficient has already been said in Section 2 of this chapter.

263. Manipur is a protected State lying between Burma on the east, the Naga Hills on the north, Cachar on the west, and the Lushai Hills and the country of the Sukte Kukis on the south. The State, consisting as it does, of a small but most fertile valley, surrounded on all sides by a hill country, has long had an independent existence. It was known to the Shans as Ka-sé and to the Burmese as Ka-thé, a corruption of the same word; the Ahoms called it Mekheli, and the Kacharis Magli, while the old Assamese name for it is Moglau. The Manipuris proper are regarded by Pemberton as "the descendants of a Tartar colony which emigrated from the north-west borders of China during the sanguinary conflicts for supremacy which took place between the different members of the Chinese and Tartar dynasties in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries." Their features clearly show that they belong to the Mongolian stock, and their language is closely allied to those of the Kuki tribes which border them on the south. Manipur.

The kingdom of Manipur first emerges from obscurity as a neighbour and ally of the Shan kingdom of Pong, which had its capital at Mogaung. The regalia of the royal family are said to have been bestowed by king Komba of Pong, who at the same time added the valley of Khambat to Manipur. In 1714 a Naga, named Pamheiba, became Raja of Manipur, and adopted Hinduism, taking the name of Gharib Nawaz. His people followed his example, and since that date have been conspicuous for the rigidity with which they observe the rules of caste and ceremonial purity. Gharib Nawaz, during his reign of forty years, was engaged in constant warfare with Burma, and this state of things continued in his successors' time. Manipur was frequently invaded by the Burmese, whose last occupation of the country was in 1819. The three Manipuri princes—Marjit, Chaurjit, and Gambhir Singh—were compelled to escape to Cachar, which country, as has already been related, they occupied. With them large numbers of Manipuris emigrated, and many of their descendants, together with emigrants of a later date, are still to be found in Cachar and Sylhet.

When war was declared against Burma by the British Government in 1824, and the Burmese had been expelled from Cachar, assistance in arms and money was given by the Company to Gambhir Singh for an attempt to recover possession of Manipur. In this he was successful, occupying not only the valley in which the capital is situated, but also the Kubo Valley down to the Ningthi or Chindwin river, lying to the east of the former boundaries of the State, and peopled by Shans (called Kabau in

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Manipuri).. The treaty of Yandabo, executed in February 1126, declared (article 11) that, should Gambhir Singh desire to return to Manipur, he should be recognised by the king of Ava as Raja thereof.

When Manipur was restored to Gambhir Singh, his levy was placed under two British Officers, and was paid and supplied with ammunition by the British Government. In 1834 Gambhir Singh died, and the Kubo Valley was restored to Burma, the Raja of Manipur receiving as compensation an allowance of Rs. 500 a year. In 1835 the assistance formerly given to the levy was withdrawn, and a Political Agent was appointed to reside at Manipur. In 1844 the Queen Dowager, widow of Gambhir Singh and mother of Chandra Kirti Singh, attempted to poison the Regent, Nur Singh, but failed, and the latter then assumed the *raj* in his own name, and ruled till his death in 1850. His brother, Debendro Singh, succeeded him, but three months later he was ejected by Chandra Kirti Singh. This was followed by some disorder in the State, and in February 1851 the British Government determined to recognize and support the latter. During the next seventeen years there were no less than eight risings, some of which were suppressed by the Raja himself, while others were put down with the aid of British troops and police.

In the Naga war of 1879 the Maharaja of Manipur distinguished himself by rendering loyal assistance to the British Government. He furnished a force, which, under the leadership of the Political Agent, Colonel (afterwards Sir James) Johnstone raised the siege of Kohima by the Nagas, and prevented a great catastrophe. In return for this service he was created a K. C. S. I. On his death, in 1886, he was succeeded by his son, Sura Chandra. A rival claimant tried to seize the throne, but he was defeated by some military police from Cachar and deported to Hazaribagh.

In 1891 this little State suddenly sprang into notoriety in consequence of the outbreak which occurred in March of that year. In September 1890, the Maharaja, Sura Chandra Singh, was driven from his palace by his two youngest brothers, at the instigation of the Senapati, Tikendrajit Singh, and took refuge with the Political Agent. Notwithstanding the advice given by the latter, he declared his intention of abdicating, and left Manipur for Brindaban. On reaching British territory, he repudiated any intention of abdicating, and requested the assistance of the Government of India to regain the *gadi*. The Government of India, after duly considering the matter, decided that the Jubraj should be confirmed as Raja, but that the turbulent Senapati should be removed from Manipur. To carry out this decision, Mr. Quinton, who was then the Chief Commissioner of Assam, proceeded to Manipur early in 1891 with an escort, and ordered the Senapati to surrender himself. This he refused to do. Troops were sent to arrest him in his house in the palace enclosure. They were fiercely attacked by the Manipuris, and the engagement continued until the evening, when an armistice was agreed to, and firing temporarily ceased. The Chief Commissioner and four other officers were then induced, under a promise of safe conduct, to enter the "Pat" and hold a Darbar in the Darbar hall at the entrance to the Raja's citadel. No agreement being found possible, the officers started to return to the Residency; but on the way the crowd closed in on them, and the Political Agent, Mr. Grimwood, was fatally speared and Lieutenant Simpson severely wounded. The Chief Commissioner and his companions were then kept prisoners for two hours, after which they were marched to the green space in front of the dragons, and there beheaded by the public executioner. The attack on the Residency was then resumed, and the defenders, thinking it untenable, retreated to Cachar. A month later, Manipur was occupied by British troops, and the persons implicated in the outrage were arrested. The Senapati and some others were executed, and the new Raja and his brothers were transported for life. The State had become forfeit, but, after full consideration, it was decided to regrant it; and Chura Chandra, a youthful scion of a collateral line, was placed upon the throne. The boy was sent for six years to be educated at Ajmere, and has now joined the Imperial Cadet corps. During his minority the administration of the State was conducted by a Political Agent, who, since the regrant of the State in 1891, is also Superintendent, and numerous reforms have been effected. Better judicial tribunals have been introduced, the land revenue administration has been carefully revised, and the old system of forced labour has been abolished. The boundaries of the State have been defined; steps have been taken to disarm the hill tribes, and trade has been much stimulated, first by the construction of a cart-road from Kohima to Imphal, and, subsequently, by the opening of the Assam-Bengal Railway to Dimapur. Only one serious raid has occurred in Manipur territory during recent years, and that was in 1893, when a combination of Kuki villages surprised a village of Khoirao Nagas, against whom they professed to have a grievance, and killed 99 men and 187 women and children.

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Hill Tippera.

264. The Native State of Hill Tippera is, as its name implies, a hilly country, bounded on the north by the district of Sylhet, on the west by the districts of Tippera and Noakhali, on the south by Noakhali and Chittagong, and on the east by the Lushai country and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Our knowledge of its early history is derived entirely from the *Rajmala*, or "Chronicles of the Kings of Tippera," which is said to be the oldest specimen of Bengali composition in existence.

These chronicles cannot be dignified with the name of history. They are at best ancient traditions, but even this cannot be asserted with certainty. From such scattered facts as may be gleaned from them, it appears certain that the Rajas of Tippera were in constant feud with all the neighbouring countries, except Cachar, and that Shiva worship early took root in, and rapidly spread through, the country. It was probably after the conversion of the Rajas to Hinduism, that they took the status of the Kshetrya caste, although they belong to the Indo-Chinese stock with an admixture of Aryan blood.

It is impossible to define the limits at any given period of the ancient kingdom of Tippera; but at various times its rule extended from the Sundarbans in the west to Burma in the east and south, and Kamrup in the north. The military prestige of the Rajas was at its height during the sixteenth century, when Raja Sri Dhanya invaded with success the countries on every side of the kingdom. In the seventeenth century the Moghuls obtained a footing in the country, and subsequently, by dint of constant invasions and intrigues, established themselves gradually in Tippera. They appear, however, only to have occupied the lowlands, while the hilly tracts remained in the possession of the Raja, but subject to the control of, and tributary to, the Nawab of Murshidabad. When the East India Company obtained the Dewani of Bengal in 1765, so much of Tippera as had been placed on the rent-roll under the name of *Roshnabad* came under British rule. At this time Shamsherjung, a Mussalman, was Governor of the State, the Raja having been sent a prisoner to Delhi for failing to pay the revenue due to the Moghul.

On the grant of the Dewani, the East India Company placed a Raja on the *gadi* of the State; and since 1808 each successive ruler has received investiture from the Government, and has been required to pay the usual *nazar*, or fine, on succession. In 1870 the position of the Raja was declared by the Government of India to be that of a feudatory, and on the 21st June 1904, a *sanad* was granted to him by the Viceroy, settling the question of succession to the State and its appurtenances. He has, however, no treaty with the British Government, nor does he pay any tribute.

Hill Tippera holds a unique place among the Native States. The Raja is an independent ruler within his own territories, having his own laws and regulations, but he also holds a large zamindari, called *Chakla* Roshnabad, situated in the plains of the district of Tippera. This estate, which covers 650 square miles, is by far the most valuable portion of the Raja's possessions, and yields a larger revenue than the whole of his kingdom of Hill Tippera. It is held to form with the State what is legally known as an "impartible *raj*," and the Raja for the time being is both a British zamindar and a ruling chief. Consequently, whenever the succession was disputed, the question was allowed to be decided by the British courts of law. The latest decision, however, is that the latter have no further jurisdiction than to declare that the ruler selected by the Government for the State is the rightful proprietor of the zamindari. Disputes as to the right of succession have occurred on the occasion of almost every vacancy in the *raj*, the cause being the rule of succession, the origin of which is lost in obscurity. The rule itself is thus described:—

> A reigning Raja has the power of nominating any male member of the royal family, within certain limits, as his successor, under the title of Jubraj, and also a successor to the Jubraj, under the title of Bara Thakur. On the Raja's death, the Jubraj becomes Raja and the Bara Thakur becomes Jubraj, the latter in his turn succeeding as Raja even to the exclusion of the Raja's natural heirs. It is, however, open to the reigning Raja to appoint his natural heirs to these dignities when unappropriated; and when no appointments have been made, the eldest son succeeds as a matter of course. Thus a Jubraj, who becomes Raja, has no power to pass over the Bara Thakur appointed by his predecessor. That Bara Thakur becomes Jubraj, and subsequently, if he lives, Raja. The reigning Raja, however, has the option of appointing a successor to the new Jubraj, whom he (the Jubraj) in his turn cannot set aside.

The administration of both the State and the zamindari has been a frequent source of anxiety to British officials. In 1871, a Political Agent was appointed to reside at Agartola, the Raja's capital, with the object of protecting British interests on the frontier, which were in special danger from the Lushai raids, and to advise the Raja; but in 1878, a separate Political Agent being found unnecessary, the Magistrate of the adjoining district of Tippera was appointed *ex-officio* Political Agent of Hill Tippera. Since then, some improvements have been effected in the State by the

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adoption of British methods of administration, and of codes framed on British models, and in the zamindari by a survey and settlement under the Bengal Tenancy Act which was concluded in 1899.

The present Raja, His Highness Radha Kishor Manikya, 140th of his line, was confirmed in succession to his father, Maharaja Bir Chandra Manikya, in 1897, at the age of 40, and was formally installed as Raja by the Commissioner of Chittagong on behalf of the Government of Bengal on the 5th March 1897.

Frontier States and Tribes.

265. The frontier States and tribes which adjoin the Province commencing at the north-west corner, are the following :—

(1) Bhutan.
(2) Bhutias subject to Thibet.
(3) Independent Bhutias.
(4) Akas.
(5) Daflas.
(6) Miris.
(7) Abors.
(8) Mishmis.
(9) Khamtis.
(10) Singphos.
(11) Nagas.

South of the Naga territory, a portion of which is included in the British district of the Naga Hills, comes the Manipur State, and south and west of Manipur, adjoining the southern boundary of Cachar and a portion of Sylhet, is found the country of the Lushais, now forming a British district; west of the Lushai Hills and south of Sylhet lies the State of Hill Tippera.

Bhutan.

266. Since the partition of Bengal the State of Bhutan has been taken under the direct control of the Government of India. The Political Officer in Sikkim acts as Political Agent under the Foreign Jurisdiction and Extradition Act. This Government has no direct relations with the Deb Raja.

On the conquest of Assam, the northern portion of Kamrup, consisting of the Bijni, Chappakamar, Chapaguri, Banska, and Garkalia Duars, was found in possession of Bhutia chiefs, who paid a tribute of Rs. 3,049 yearly to the Assam Rajas. To the east of the Bornadi the two Duars of Khaling and Buriguma were held by the Bhutias for eight months of the year, and by the Assam Raja for the remaining four (the rainy season). The payment of tribute by the Bhutia Jongpens, during the first fifteen years of the British rule, was very irregular, and the frontier was continually harassed by dacoities and outrages perpetrated on British subjects, which necessitated frequent armed reprisals. At last, in 1841, it was determined (since the possession of these tracts by the Bhutias was of recent date) to resume the Duars, and bring them under British management, paying to the Bhutan Government an annual sum of Rs. 10,000 as compensation for their loss. This sum was regularly paid until the outbreak of the Bhutan war in 1864, when it was stopped, and the seven Assam Duars (as well as the five Eastern Duars north of Goalpara, by name Guma, Ripu, Chirang, Sidli, and Bijni, and the seven Western Duars north of Koch Bihar), were finally annexed to British territory. At the same time the Fort of Diwangiri and its neighbourhood, which commands the passage down to the plains of Kamrup, was occupied and retained as British territory. The treaty of 1865 concluded between the Supreme Government and the Dharm and Deb Rajas and providing for an annual subsidy of Rs. 50,000 (article 4) regulates Indian relations with Bhutan.

The Bhutias come down during the cold weather for pasture and trade into the north of Kamrup and western Darrang, but few of them appear to visit the thinly-peopled submontane tract of Goalpara. Most of their trade is done at Subankhata, Kumori, Kata, and Genbari in the Kamrup district south of Dewangiri, and at Ghagrapara in Darrang. There are a few Bhutia settlements in British territory at the foot of the hills, but their condition is not very prosperous, and they seem to be a survival of the old days of Bhutia supremacy, rather than the beginning of a more extended immigration.

From time to time there have been complaints of high-handed conduct on the part of the Bhutias, who take advantage of the timorous nature of the villagers to force upon them chillies and salt, and extort in exchange large quantities of rice and other articles. Military police outposts are maintained during the cold weather at Udalguri in Darrang, and at Darranga, Subankata, and Kokilabari in Kamrup to prevent these exactions, and give confidence to the people.

Bhutias subject to Thibet.

267. The Bhutias of the Kariapara Duar, which lies east of Bhutan Proper and extends from the Doisham to the Rota river, are dependent upon Towang, which is a dependency of the Government of Lhassa. The chiefs of this Duar, called the Sat

Rajas, used, like their neighbours of Bhutan Proper, to levy dues from the inhabitants of the adjoining plains. In 1844 their claims were bought out by the British Government on payment of an annual sum of Rs. 5,000. Relations with these people, since the composition of 1844, have only once been disturbed. In 1852 one of the Gelongs, or Thibetan officials appointed from Lhassa to supervise the local chiefs, having some misunderstanding with his superior, fled to British territory. His surrender was peremptorily demanded by the authorities of Lhassa, and a Thibetan army moved towards the frontier. A British force was assembled at Udalguri, with two guns. But no hostilities actually occurred. The Thibetans retired, the fugitive Gelong was removed to Gauhati, and the Duar was re-opened for trade. This pass is specially interesting, as it is the only place, in many hundred miles of Himalayan barrier, where the British power is in actual contact with Thibet. The hillmen, including Thibetans from the higher ranges, resort in considerable numbers during the cold weather through this Duar to the annual fair at Udalguri, which lies due south of the gap through which the Dhansiri river issues from the hills.

Independent Bhutias.

268. Next to these Bhutias subject to Towang come the Sat Rajas of Charduar, chiefs who live in villages called by the people of the plains Rupraigaon and Shergaon. They claim to be independent of Towang, and rule the face of the hills from the Rota to the Diputa rivers. The Thebengia Bhutias are a distinct race, and live several days' journey into the hills, but they used, in conjunction with the Sat Rajas, to levy contributions from the people of the adjacent plains. From 1839 to 1844 these people were excluded from the plains by the British Government, in punishment for outrages committed by them. On their submitting and executing a formal agreement to refrain from aggressions, they received annual pensions,—the Shergaon and Rupraigaon Bhutias of Rs. 2,526-7 a year, and the Thebengia Bhutias of Rs. 145-13-6. They come down annually to receive their pensions at Tezpur. They also hold an annual fair at a place beyond British territory, in the gorge of the Belsiri river, called Daimara, where some trade is done with the people of the plains, which is registered by a police post at the boundary pillar on the frontier.

Akas.

269. The Akas, or Hrusso as they call themselves, are divided into two sections, which are known to the Assamese as the Hazari Khowas, or taxers of a thousand hearths, and the Kapaschors, or cotton thieves. The former received a *posa*, or stipend, from the Assam Rajas, but the latter levied contributions without having such title. For many years the Kapaschor chief, Tangi or Tagi Raja, committed numerous robberies and murders in the plains. In 1829 he was captured and imprisoned in the Gauhati jail. He was released in 1832, when he immediately resumed his attacks; and three years later, he massacred the inhabitants of the British village and police outpost of Balipara. He continued his depredations till 1842, when he submitted, and it was decided to use his influence with the other chiefs to secure the peace of the border. An agreement was made, under which the Kapaschor Aka chiefs receive Rs. 520 a year as pension. The Hazarikhowas receive a pension of Rs. 180. Both tribes have certain small areas of land in the plains allotted to them for cultivation. The demarcation of the boundary in 1874-1875 caused some discontent among the Akas, but it was not until 1883, that they again gave any real trouble. In that year, the Kapaschor chiefs, Medi and Chandi, carried off and detained several native officials. A punitive expedition occupied Mehdi's village, and recovered the captives and some loot, which had also been taken, but it did not wait there long enough to force the chiefs to submit. A blockade of the frontier followed, but it was not till 1888 that the chiefs came and tendered their submission. Since that time they are reported to have been well-behaved and contented.

Daflas.

270. The Daflas, who occupy the hills to the east of the Akas, speak a dialect closely allied to that of the Abors and Miris; and they are evidently, though differing in arms and style of dress, nearly akin. The Daflas and Miris were, like the Akas, in receipt of *posa*, or pensionary allowance, under the Assam Government, as a condition of their refraining from aggression on the northern tracts of Darrang and Lakhimpur, and these allowances were continued by the British Government. They committed frequent raids prior to 1852, when the *posa* question was finally settled, but since then they have broken the peace on two occasions—in 1870 and 1872—by seizing some plains Daflas who were believed by them to have caused sickness in the hills. These raids were punished first by a blockade, but this proved ineffectual and a military force was sent into the hills. The Daflas offered no active opposition, and, in the end, surrendered their captives. Since then relations with the tribe have been peaceful. A large number of them have settled in the plains of Darrang and Lakhimpur as Government raiyats.

Apa Tanangs.

271. The Apa Tanangs, or Ankas, are an offshot of the Daflas who, from their isolation, have developed a few distinguishing characteristics. They have an estimated population of 15,000 souls, and occupy the valley of the Kali river at the back of the range of hills which forms the northern boundary of the North Lakhimpur subdivision. They were unknown to the British until comparatively recent times. In 1896 they raided the house of a Miri living in British territory, against whom they considered they had a grievance, and killed two men, and carried off three captives. A punitive expedition made its way unopposed to their principal village, and rescued the captives. The tribe has since then given no trouble.

Miris.

272. The Hill Miris are a quiet and inoffensive race, inhabiting the country near the Kamla river. They receive an annual allowance in money, salt, and rum from the North Lakhimpur treasury. Miris are also found in the plains, where they are peaceable British subjects. They are expert and fearless boatmen, and act as a channel of communication with the Abors, and from this circumstance comes the name by which they are known in Assam, which means a "go-between." They have never given any trouble.

Abors.

273. The term "Abor" which means in Assamese an independent, remote, and unknown savage, is applied somewhat loosely to a number of tribes and clans, who occupy the hills east of the Miris as far as the Dibong river. They are divided into two principal groups,—Passi-Meyong Abors west of the Dihong, and the Bor Abors or Padams between that river and the Dibong—while several Abor settlements have been founded in the plains. These tribes, though speaking the same language, differ greatly from the Miris in character. They are the most ruthless savages on the whole of the northern frontier, and the absence of population on the north bank of the Brahmaputra, from opposite Dibrugarh to Sadiya, is chiefly due to dread of their raids. Murders and outrages committed by them on Government raiyats, in some cases close to the headquarters station of Dibrugarh, have led to several punitive expeditions. In 1858 one was sent to punish the massacre of a Bihia village by the Bor Meyong Abors, but was compelled to retreat. In 1859 a second expedition was sent, but met with very scant success. The Abors, thus emboldened, took up a position threatening the plains. A third and stronger force entered the hills in 1859, and ejected them, and burnt a number of their villages. One section of the Abors then submitted, but another was again on the war-path in the following year. This led to the construction of a road along the frontier and the establishment of a line of outposts. The offenders, on seeing these operations, submitted. During the next few years agreements were concluded with the different Abor communities, by which they were given an allowance of iron hoes, salt, rum, opium and tobacco as long as they remained on their good behaviour. No further outrages occurred till 1889, when four Miris were decoyed across the frontier and murdered. A fine of twenty bison was imposed upon the tribe, and the frontier was blockaded, pending payment, which was made in less than a year. The last disturbance was in 1893, when the Abors of all sections become hostile, and attacked several parties of police. An expedition occupied certain Bor Abor villages after overcoming a good deal of resistance, and was followed by a blockade which lasted until 1900, when a general submission was made. These measures appear to have made a great impression on the Bor Abors, whose conduct in recent years has been fairly satisfactory.

Mishmis.

274. The Mishmis inhabit the country between the Dibong and the Brahmakund. There are four main tribes—Chulikatta, Bebejiya, Miju, and Digaru.

The Chulikatta Mishmis were for a long time regarded as a particularly dangerous and hostile tribe, having, on several occasions, attacked Khamti settlements in the neighbourhood of Sadiya, but it has since been ascertained that many of the outrages attributed to them were really committed by Bebejiyas. A blockade was imposed both upon the Chulikattas and the Bebejiyas in 1893, as they were believed to have taken part in the outrages committed by the Abors. In 1899 the Bebejiya Mishmis murdered three Khamti British subjects, and carried off three children, and an expedition was despatched against them in the following cold weather, which, after a tedious and difficult march, succeeded in recovering the captives and burning the guilty villages. One of the raiders was subsequently given up, and, after due trial, was found guilty of murder and hanged at Sadiya. The expedition of 1899, besides greatly impressing the tribes, added much to our knowledge of them and their country. It is reported that the Chulikattas own the land on both banks of the Dibong from Nizamghat up to the watershed of the river, and also a considerable extent of territory on the plains side of the Nizamghat gorge. They formerly owned all the country in that quarter as far as the Sesseri river, but were driven eastward by the Abors, to whom the Chulikattas on the right bank of

the Dibong are now more or less subject. The tribal name of the Bebejiyas is Mithun, and that of the Chulikattas Midus. Although the two tribes are reported to resemble one another strongly in manners and customs and to speak the same language, the Chulikattas disdain all connection with the Bebejiyas, who, they say, are of Digaru origin. The Chulikattas are active traders and resort in considerable numbers to the fair at Sadiya ; a good many Bebejiyas also traded with Sadiya before the blockade of 1893. It would appear that neither of these tribes is really so ill-disposed towards the British as was formerly believed, and that many of the outrages, which have been traced to them, were acts of revenge for which a good deal of provocation had been given by the Khamtis.

The Digaru Mishmis are a quiet, inoffensive people, and act as guides to pilgrims to the sacred gorge of the Brahmaputra, known as the Brahmakund. Of the Miju or Midhi Mishmis, further to the east, we know little. In 1851, M. Krick, a French missionary, made a successful journey through their country to the frontier of Thibet, and back to Assam, but in 1854, when he again visited Thibet with a colleague, M. Bourry, both were murdered on their return journey by a party of these Mishmis under a chief named Kaiisha. This outrage was avenged in February 1855 by an expedition under Lieutenant Eden, who, with 20 Assam Light Infantry and 40 Khamti volunteers, reached Kaiisha's village, stormed it, and took the murderer prisoner. In December 1885, Mr. F. J. Needham, Assistant Political Officer at Sadiya, accompanied by Captain E. H. Molesworth, Commandant of Military Police, and three police orderlies, succeeded in penetrating through the Miju Mishmi country, and in entering the Thibetan province of Zayul.

The Digaru Mishmis carry on trade with Sadiya, while the Mijus have little or no intercourse with Sadiya, but trade with the Thibetans of Zayul. The Digarus, on the other hand, are believed to have little direct intercourse with Thibet. None of the Mishmi tribes receive any *posa*, nor do formal treaties or agreements with them exist.

Khamtis.

275. The Khamtis settled about Sadiya have already been mentioned. They are immigrants from the Shan States beyond the Patkoi range, formerly tributary to Burma and known to the Assamese as Bor Khamti. They are of the same race as the Ahoms, but differ from the latter in being Buddhists. They are a literary and cultivated people, and much more civilised than any of their neighbours. They first settled in Sadiya during the latter part of the eighteenth century. When the Burmese were expelled from Assam, the Khamti Gohain, or chief of Sadiya, executed an agreement of allegiance to the British Government, and Sadiya was selected as the residence of the Political Agent in Upper Assam. In 1839, after the death of the Khamti chief, with whom the British made the agreement, the Khamtis of Sadiya suddenly rose, and massacred the Political Agent, Colonel White, and many of his guards and attendants. A war followed, ending in the transportation of the Khamti chief's son and his followers to a distant part of British territory. In 1843 some chiefs of this race were again allowed to settle about Sadiya ; and in 1850 a new immigration from Bor Khamti took place. The Khamtis living about Sadiya and Saikwa are British raiyats, and pay revenue. Those living on the Tengapani beyond the Inner Line acknowledge allegiance to the British Government, but pay no revenue. The last census showed 1,975 Khamtis to be resident in Assam.

Phakia's and Turungs.

276. The Phakials, or Phake, are said to have left Mogaung for Assam about 1760 A.D., immediately after the subjugation of that province by Alomphra. Colonel Hannay tells us that, prior to their immigration into this Province, they were resident on the banks of the Turungpani, and were thus apparently near neighbours of the Turungs. On reaching Assam, they at first settled on the banks of the Buri Dihing, whence they were brought by the Ahoms, and settled near Jorhat. When the Burmese invaded Assam, they and other Shan tribes were ordered by the Burmese authorities to return to Mogaung, and they had got as far as their old settlement on the Buri Dihing, when the province was taken by the British.

Their language closely resembles that of the other Northern Shans. Like the Khamtis and Turung, they are Buddhists. They seldom marry outside their own community ; and, as this is very small, their physique is said to be deteriorating. They are adepts in the art of dyeing.

The Turungs immigrated into the Province less than seventy years ago. Their own tradition is that they originally came from Mungmang Khaosang on the north-east of Upper Burma, and settled on the Turungpani, whence the name by which they are now known. While there, they received an invitation from the Noras, who had preceded them and settled near Jorhat, and in consequence they started across the

Patkoi *en route* for the Brahmaputra Valley. They were, however, taken prisoners by the Singphos and made to work as slaves, in which condition they remained for five years. They were released by Captain Neufville, along with nearly 6,000 Assamese slaves, in 1825, and continued their journey to the Jorhat subdivision, where they are still settled.

Singphos.

277. The Singphos, who live, intermixed with the Khamtis, in the country watered by the Buri Dihing, the Noa Dihing and the Tengapani, which formerly belonged to the Ahoms, are merely an outlying section of their tribe. Their real home is in the hilly country between the Chindwin river and the Patkoi, where they are known as Kakhyens. The name by which they are known on the Assam frontier is simply the tribal word for *man*. They are apparently, from what is known of their language, related to the Naga tribes in their neighbourhood, to whom, however, they stand distinctly in the position of masters and superiors. Where brought in contact with the Khamtis, they have borrowed something of the civilization and outward appearance of the latter, and have also in some cases been converted to Buddhism. They are, however, probably quite distinct by race.

The Singphos made their appearance on the outskirts of Assam during the Moamaria rebellions. It was through their country that the Burmese invaders passed into Assam in 1818 and 1822; and the ravages of the Singphos, added to those of the Burmese, contributed greatly to the depopulation of the Matak country and Sibsagar. When Assam was conquered from the Burmese, the chiefs of the Singphos, after several engagements with the British troops, tendered their allegiance, and entered into agreements not to disturb the peace of the frontier. Great numbers of Assamese slaves, who had been carried off by them in the early years of the century, were released, and the wealth and power of the tribe were in this manner much reduced. In 1839 they joined the Khamtis in their attack on Sadiya; but by 1842 they had again been brought to acknowledge their subjection. Many of the Singpho immigrants, with whom agreements were made in 1826, have since retired across the frontier into Hukong.

The Duanias, or Singpho-Assamese half-breeds (so called from the Assamese *duan* = language, because they act as interpreters), are the offspring of the intercourse between these slaves and their captors. They are chiefly settled along the Buri or Old Dihing, and are quiet subjects.

The now universal habit of opium-eating is believed to have contributed largely to the present pacific attitude of the Singphos and Khamtis. Since 1882, an Assistant Political Officer has been stationed at Sadiya, who is charged with the duty of conducting the relations of the Administration with the Abors in particular, as well as with the other tribes bordering upon Sadiya. This officer has jurisdiction over the Dibrugarh frontier tract. The chiefs of the Singphos and Khamtis meet annually at the full moon of *Magh* (in the end of January or beginning of February) at Sadiya to present themselves, with the chiefs of the Mishmi and Abor tribes, before the Assistant Political Officer, who receives their offerings, and gives them in return small presents. They pay no revenue, except where settled within the Inner Line.

Eastern Nagas.

278. The Nagas of the Naga Hills district have already been noticed before, but certain tribes bearing the same designation are found further east, far beyond its boundary. From the Dikhu to the Tirap, an affluent of the Buri Dihing, the Naga tribes along the frontier are distinguished by the name of the passes through which they descend to the plains, such as Namasangia, Joboka, Tablungia, Asiringia, etc. They carry on considerable trade in cotton and other hill produce, which they exchange for salt and rice. Unlike the Angamis, Semas and Lhotas, who are intensely democratic in their social economy, many of the Eastern Nagas appear to acknowledge the authority of Rajas and minor chiefs among themselves.

With the internal affairs of these people the Government hardly meddles at all; but they are prohibited from carrying their quarrels into the settled British territory, and, if they do so, are tried and punished by the British courts. On this frontier, a system prevails by which the Nagas of each group have allotted to them certain Assamese agents, called *kotokis*, who manage small plots of revenue-free land, called *Naga khats*, on behalf of the tribes. When the attendance of the chiefs in the hills is required for any purpose, they are summoned through these *kotokis*. If satisfaction for robberies and other outrages is not in this way obtained, the Duar or pass through which the tribe visits the plains, is blocked, and no one is allowed to come down or go up. This system has rarely failed to secure reparation: and, on the whole, the conduct of the Nagas on this frontier has been peaceable and quiet, so far as the settled lands of the plains are concerned. Among themselves, however, their feuds are incessant, and are only composed to break out anew. The easternmost tribes of Borduaries and Namsan-

gias have thus been prosecuting a quarrel for over fifty years, each group taking, when it can, the lives and heads of some of the others. With these feuds it has not been the policy of the Government to meddle, though attempts have occasionally been made to mediate between contending tribes.

Inner Line—Regulation.

279. The Inner Line is a boundary which, in accordance with the policy to which effect was given by Regulation V of 1873, has been laid down in certain districts as that up to which the protection of British authority is guaranteed, and beyond which, except by special permission, it is not lawful for British subjects to go. The unrestricted intercourse, which formerly existed between British subjects in Assam and the wild tribes living across the frontier, frequently led to quarrels, and, sometimes, to serious disturbances. This was specially the case in connection with the traffic in rubber brought down by the hillmen, for which there was great competition. The opening out of tea gardens beyond the border lines also at times involved the Government in troublesome disputes with the frontier tribes in their vicinity. In order to prevent the recurrence of these difficulties, power was given to the local authorities by the Inner Line Regulation of 1873 to prohibit British subjects generally, or those of specified classes, from going beyond a certain line, laid down for the purpose, without a pass or license, issued by the Deputy Commissioner and containing such conditions as might seem necessary. Such a line has been laid down in the following districts:—In Kamrup and Goalpara, towards Bhutan; in Darrang, towards the Bhutias, Akas and Daflas; in Lakhimpur, towards the Daflas, Miris, Abors, Mishmis, Khamtis, Singphos and Nagas; in Sibsagar, towards the Nagas; and in Jalpaiguri, towards the Bhutias. The Inner Line, formerly maintained along the Lushai border, has since 1895 been allowed to fall into desuetude, but Lushais visiting Cachar are required to take out passes from the Superintendent of the Lushai Hills.

SECTION 9.—Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

Feudatory States.

MANIPUR.

[Tribute, Rs. 50,000 annually; Population (1901), 284,465; Gross revenue, Rs. 4,12,798; Military, 330 Military Police; Products, rice, dal, and vegetables of various kinds. India-rubber, wax, tea-seed, and other forest-products, cattle, ponies and buffaloes; Manufactures, cotton cloth, fine and coarse, silk cloth, fine and coarse, brass and other metal utensils, a few articles of ivory and ordinary Indian jewellery, some leather work, and a coarse kind of salt; Minerals, iron ore, limestone, copper and salt, of which only salt and limestone are now worked.

Raja, Chura Chand Singh, aged 20 years 11 months; caste, Kshtariya Hindu; no heir. Principal members of family, (1) Ramananda Singh (aged 78), Moirang Ningthow; (2) Dumbra Singh (aged 34), eldest brother of Raja; Dimbha Singh (aged 32), second brother of Raja; (4) Chandra Hash Singh (aged 30), third brother of Raja; (5) Degendra Singh (aged 21), step-brother of Raja.]

The Minor Raja.

280. His Highness the Raja joined the Imperial Cadet Corps at Dehra Dun on the 6th of May 1905. He was granted three months' sick leave on the 10th January 1906, and returned to Manipur where he remained till the end of the year. His illness was not serious.

Hill Tribes.

281. During the year the hill villages received a good deal of attention. The village of Lakhame was burnt and a guard posted there for 5 months in order to enforce an order which had been passed so long ago as 1902-1903. It was reported that certain Malun villages on the southern border were ill-disposed, and had for some time been committing offences in the Chin Hills. The Political Officer found them to be somewhat out of hand owing to their not having been visited by any officer for many years, but was of opinion that, if they were in future dealt with directly and visited frequently, there would be no trouble. As a result of his visit to these villages, and meeting with officers of the Chin and the Lushai Hills, many cases of old standing were settled. Steps were taken to license as many guns as were necessary for the purpose of protection and unlicensed guns were subsequently confiscated when found.

General condition of the people.

282. The general condition of the people was, on the whole, prosperous. From an agricultural point of view, however, the year was not entirely satisfactory. The heavy floods in June, August, and October did considerable damage to the rice crops, and the price of rice was consequently high throughout the year. The other crops were, however, satisfactory.

Medical.

283. The State maintains two hospitals, one of which, *viz.*, that at Mairang, was opened on the 4th September. The other, which is at Imphal, is being reconstructed and has been all but completed. There was a small increase in the number of in-door patients—a fact which shows that the prejudices of the Manipuris against these institutions are slowly giving way.

Education.

284. Education made fair progress. Two high school classes were added to the Johnstone School, which is recognised as a Middle English School, and an upper primary school was amalgamated with it in order that the superior staff of one might be able to assist the weak staff of the other, while 14 new primary schools were opened. Special attention was at the same time directed to the training of teachers. The number of pupils increased by 646.

Prisons.

285. There is only one prison in the State which is situated in the capital. A female ward was added to it during the year. The daily average jail population was 171·24.

Finance.

286. The financial condition of the State was very satisfactory, the balance credit at the close of the year being Rs. 50,528 more than at its commencement. The receipts, which amounted to Rs. 4,12,798, actually showed a decrease of Rs. 191, but this was due to the large arrears which were collected in the preceding year. Leaving arrears aside, the revenue increased considerably. The only heads of revenue, which showed a decline, were salt, forests, and hill house-tax; under all other heads the revenue increased. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 3,62,270, a decrease of Rs. 58,748, as compared with that of the previous year. This reduction was due chiefly to the fact that the expenditure on Civil Works was less by about half a lakh. The State is entirely free from debt.

HILL TIPPERA.

* [Area, 4,086 square miles; chief products, rice and cotton; population (1901), 173,325; revenue from State, Rs. 8,16,958; revenue from zamindari in British Territory, Rs. 8,58,581; Military force, 334 Infantry; present Raja, Radha Kishore Deb Barman Manikya; born, 1857; family, Indo-Chinese, but the Rajas have taken the status of the Kshetrya caste; residence, Agartala; has male heir.]

General condition of the people.

287. The year was not a favourable one from an agricultural point of view. The rainfall in September and October was unusually heavy, and destroyed the paddy crops in the *jhums* partially and the *til* almost entirely. In the plains the same cause damaged the *aus*, or autumn rice crop, and seriously affected the *aman* or winter rice crop. The distress, which followed the partial failure of crops on the *jhums*, was, however, happily restricted to the Udaipur division, and adequate measures were taken to meet it. Cotton, on the other hand, yielded an excellent outturn, and fetched high prices. Partly owing to this reason and partly owing to the settling of waste lands, the revenue, realized from both State and British zamindari, Rs. 16,77,321, was the highest on record. The expenditure, excluding that on the liquidation of debts and the repayment of deposits, was well within the revenue. Public health was good throughout the year, although cholera was prevalent for a time in the winter season in Thana Bishalgar within the sadr subdivision and in some parts of the Sonamura and the Udaipur divisions. During the year 812 families immigrated into, and 711 families emigrated from, the State.

General Administration.

288. By the retirement of the Minister, Rai Uma Kanta Das Bahadur, and of Mr. C. W. McMinn, Manager of the Raja's estates in British Territory, His Highness lost his two most experienced and trusted advisers. With a view to give them an official training and an insight into the working of the important Departments of the State, the Jubaraj was placed at the head of the Revenue and Political Departments, and Kumar Brojendro Kishore at the head of the Police and Military Departments. The time, spent by the Divisional Officers on tour, was again reported to be insufficient, except in the case of the Superintendent of Police.

Police.

289. The separation of the police and the revenue work was gradually carried out during the year. It was not, however, found in all respects to be as satisfactory as had been anticipated, and steps are now being taken to introduce certain modifications in view of the special conditions prevailing in the State.

Jails.

290. The average daily population in the seven jails maintained by the State was 51. There were 43 convicts and 5 under-trials in the several jails at the end of the year.

Education.

291. The expenditure on education in the State is slowly increasing, this year's figure being Rs. 48,862. The number of scholars on the rolls of the various schools was 4,064, or 337 more than in the previous year.

Communication.

292. Communications are said to be very defective, and not much is being done for their improvement. A proposal to connect Kaileshwar by a good road with Shamshernagar station on the Assam-Bengal Railway is still under consideration.

Hospitals.

293. The State maintains 10 dispensaries and hospitals. With a view to extend the usefulness of the Victoria Memorial Hospital, a wing was added to it for the exclusive use of female patients (Hindu and Muhammadan) and provided with ten beds.

294. The Kasipur model farm on the river Dabda made considerable progress during the year. The farm land was drained and prepared for scientific cultivation, and a spacious and well ventilated rearing-house for silk worms was completed. The main crops being tried are mulberry, potato, aloe and rhea. Agriculture.

Frontier Tribes.

BHUTIA.

295. During the year, orders were issued under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (V of 1873), prohibiting all persons other than officers on Government duty or persons who by nationality are either Indians, Nepalese, Bhutanese or Thibetans, from passing beyond the Inner Line of the Jalpaiguri district without a pass under the hand and seal of the Deputy Commissioner. It was reported that the boundary line between Bhutan and Jalpaiguri had not been kept clear, and it is proposed to have it redemarcated by a survey party.

296. The usual fairs were held at Darranga and Subankhata during the months of January to March, and were attended by 1,824 and 1,690 Bhutias, respectively. But as cholera broke out, most of them left early. The value of imports consequently fell to Rs. 10,345 and that of exports to Rs. 6,907. Bhutias visiting Kamrup.

A large number of Bhutias came down the Dewangiri road to meet the Tongsa Penlop who returned from Calcutta through Gauhati and Darranga. He was provided by the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup with transport for himself and his party as far as Dewangiri. Bhutias visiting Darranga.

From Bhutan proper Bhutias came down as usual through Kherkeria about the middle of January, and returned by the middle of March. The trade statistics at present collected are unreliable, but it is said that less business was done than in the preceding year. The Kariapara fair was held from the 20th January and lasted about two months. The Bhutias behaved well. One man was fined for selling hill *ganja* without a license.

The usual yearly *posa* was presented by the Deputy Commissioner to the Gelengs who gave in return a pony and other articles. The Thebengia and Charduar Bhutias also received their *posa*. The latter presented Government with blankets and yak tails in exchange.

AKAS.

297. Only the Kapaschor Akas came down to take their yearly *posa*. The prohibition against the issue of Inner Line passes to cut rubber in the Aka country was withdrawn during the year to the satisfaction of both the Akas and traders. Kapaschor and Hazarikhoa Akas.

Arrangements were again made with the Akas for cutting *agar* in their hills.

DAFLAS.

298. There was no trouble with the Hill Daflas, etc., in 1905-1906. Several batches of men, women and children of this tribe came down to settle in the Lakhimpur district. For the first time permission was given to a party of men to hunt elephants in what is popularly known as the Dafla Hills. They captured 40 elephants, but had to pay Rs. 25 a head to two Dafla Gams who claimed as theirs the land on which the corral had been erected. Daflas.

No complaint of any sort was made against the Apa Tanangs. Apa Tanangs.

MIRIS.

299. The Miris were well behaved. Torun Gam of the Tarbotia Miris became a disciple of the Gharmora Gosain, and eschewed killing domestic cows and buffaloes for food. Gachi and Panbotia Miris.

The Subdivisional Officer reports that Kojum has been trying to appropriate the *posa* due to other members of the tribe, and that the Saraks are losing faith in him. Saraks.

300. The Doba Abors, also known as Gallongs or Gachi Miris, behaved satisfactorily and came in as usual to receive their *posa*. Doba Abors.

The order passed last year for the removal of Tatum's village to Jalukbari, 17 miles within the Inner Line, could not be carried out, Jalukbari having become uninhabitable owing to the encroachment of the river. The Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, has now ordered the people of the village to remove to a place called Ghogoramukh near Jalukbari.

The complaint, made last year by the Gallong Abors, of the theft of a pair of elephant tusks belonging to them by certain Gallongs of Tatum's village, was enquired into by the police and found to be true. The case was amicably settled.

Passi Meyongs.

A Passi Abor, by name Jalut, was arrested and confined in the Dibrugarh jail for having carried away from British territory certain articles belonging to the husband of his slave-woman, who had fled from his house years ago and settled in the plains. It was afterwards found that the facts had been misrepresented, and he was released.

Bor Abors or Padams.

There were no complaints against the Bor Abors. They came in large numbers during the cold weather to trade at Sadiya.

MISHMIS.

Bebejiyas.

301. In July 1905, three British subjects—a Duania, his wife, and child—were murdered by some Bebejiyas near the Dikrang block-house. Pongon, a Bebejiya headman, is said to have committed the offence from a desire to revenge himself on some British subjects for his detention in jail during the Bebejiya-Mishmi expedition of 1900. A reward of Rs. 1,000 was offered for the apprehension of each of the murderers, but as it was of no effect, a blockade was maintained against this tribe as strictly as possible.

Chulikattas.

Owing to their failure to intercept the Bebejiyas, when passing through their country and to capture the murderers, the Chulikatta tribe were also blockaded.

Digaros.

The Digaros behaved well. They cleared the Sonapura road, and many of them visited the plains during the cold weather for trade and to tap rubber for the mahaldars at Dibrugarh.

Khamtis and Singphos.

302. The conduct of these tribes gave no cause for complaint.

NAGAS.

Margherita Nagas, Yoglis, and Rangpangs.

303. Three Rangpang Nagas were caught red-handed at Margherita with some rails belonging to the Railway Company, and sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one month each. A few others were convicted of petty thefts and similarly sentenced. On the night of the 27th March 1906, some Nagas entered the office of the Agent and General Manager, Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, and, while attempting to take away the cash chest, the chaukidar, who was sleeping beside it, awoke and caught one of them; the others came to his rescue and struck him with a *dáo*. The case was investigated by the police, assisted by the political jemadar at Margherita.

The poll-tax assessed on certain Sarkari Naga villages near Margherita, and the house-tax of the villages, situated farther in the hills, for last year as well as for this year were collected without any difficulty. The headmen were ordered to bring in the taxes of their villages themselves, and this order was in nearly every case complied with.

Jaipur Nagas, Borduarias, Namsanglas and Bormithunias, etc.

Two Khunma Nagas were murdered last year by Khullung Nagas within British territory. The Khullungs were fined Rs. 1,000. The fine, which, after a considerable delay, was paid by them, was distributed amongst the heirs of the deceased, and the Namsang Raja, who had been detained at Dibrugarh in connection with the murder, was then released.

Nagas on the Sibsagar Frontier.

Towards the end of the year, the Manager of the Santok garden reported that some Nagas had been very troublesome and had stolen a gunmetal cock and a pair of crucible tongs out of his workshop.

There was a dispute as to the boundaries of Athkel mauza between the Manager of the Mackeypore tea estate and some Nagas from a small hamlet in the Naga Hills district. The latter at first took up a threatening attitude, but the matter has since been amicably settled.

NAGA HILLS.

304. The district was further extended by the inclusion of the small village of Mangaki's, which was formerly protected by Yehim and Seromi. Shortly after its protectors had become British subjects and were thus unable to interfere, Mangaki's was raided, and the headman, whose name the village bore, was killed. To save the survivors from destruction, and to spare the feelings of the Yehim confederacy, the district boundary was altered so as to include the village.

One of three Aichisagami traders was wantonly murdered in the trans-Tizu village of Yachumi. This was bitterly resented by the Aichisagami, as, prior to their annexation, Yachumi had always paid them a formal annual tribute to be left alone. An expedition visited Yachumi in February, and realised a heavy fine. It was found impossible to arrest the murderer, but the village of Kehomi, where he had taken refuge, was burnt.

The raids in the independent territory across the Tizu were less frequent than in former years. The trans-Tizu Semas are inclined to think that their annexation is only

a matter of time. They point out, and with justice, that in sheer self-preservation they must sometimes make war on the tribes alongside them, but, as between Semas and Semas, they are ready to accept arbitration without having recourse to arms. The annexation of the entire Sema tribe would be an easy matter, and proposals for the inclusion of their villages within the area of political control have recently been submitted to the Government of India.

GARO HILLS.

305. The only matter of political importance worthy of mention during the year was the continuance of Sonaram Sangma's agitation. The object of this agitation is to recover for the Garos possession of the Habraghat pargana, a large tract of country which has for many years formed part of the Bijni zamindari in the Goalpara district. Sonaram was convicted and imprisoned under section 174, Indian Penal Code, but the High Court set aside the order on the ground of want of jurisdiction. Since then he has set himself with redoubled energy to fleece his fellow countrymen, but he has not yet ventured to press his claim in the Civil Court.

LUSHAI HILLS.

306. The year was singularly devoid of political incidents. The Lushais appear to have settled down quietly, and it is rarely necessary to punish them for disobedience of orders. Demands for labour are, almost invariably, promptly and punctually complied with. There is, however, a spirit of dissatisfaction and independence existing in the villages bordering on the unadministered tract in the southern hills. Meetings between the local officers and the officers from the Chin Hills and Manipur resulted during the year in the satisfactory settlement of a number of border disputes.

The circle system worked fairly well. A remarkable feature in these hills is the gradual splitting up of villages. When the Lushais first came under British administration, in the northern hills alone there were 7 villages of 500 houses and over, and 10 of between 300 and 500. Now there are only 3 villages of over 300 houses and none of over 400. The local officers report that this tendency lessens the authority of the chiefs and increases the difficulties of administration ; but it has the advantage of bringing the people nearer to their *jhums*, and demonstrates the growth of a feeling of security.

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

States.

[Consisting of twenty-five States.—Bhowal, Cherra, Shella, Khyrim, Mylliem, Langrin, Maharam, Mawiang, Maosauram, Malaisohmat, Mariaw, Nobosohphoh, Nongkhlaw, Nongspung, Nongstoin, Rambrai, Jirang, Dwara Nongtyrmen, Maodon, Maolong, Pamsanngut, Lyngiong, Mauphlang, Nonglwai, and Sohiong. Total population, 202,250.]

307. Political relations with the Khasi Siems and other Chiefs were not wholly satisfactory. The Wahadadars of Shella acted in direct contravention of the orders of Government by exporting limestone in boats through the Dwara-Theria Railway borrow pits, and it was found necessary to establish a police post at Shella.

The Siem of Nongkhlaw disapproved of the position of a boundary pillar, fixed by the Deputy Commissioner, between his State and that of Cherra and had it demolished. The case is now before Government.

The Siem of Nongspung illegally arrested some men of the neighbouring estate of Pamsanngut, his object being to bring pressure to bear in order to obtain an extension of territory. He was fined Rs. 300.

Affairs in the Cherra State have fairly settled down, though opposition to the Siem by U Chandra Singh's adherents has not altogether died out.

Some of the Khasi Chiefs, notably the Siems of Khyrim, Mylliem and Cherra, and a large number of their subjects presented a congratulatory address to the Lieutenant-Governor on the 16th October on the occasion of the inauguration of the Lieutenant-Governorship of this province.

A new Lyngdoh of Mawphlang was elected in place of U Bulo, deceased.

The attention of Government was drawn to the illicit importation of fire-arms into the Khasi States by an occurrence in the State of Khyrim. One U Mih, a notorious character, who had been previously tried for murder but had escaped conviction, rebelled against the Siem and established a reign of terror in the Laitmewa village. At the request of the Siem the Deputy Commissioner despatched a police force to arrest the man who was found intrenched in a *sangar* in the village, and armed with 4 rifles and guns, a revolver, and with a large quantity of ball ammunition. On being called upon to surrender, he refused and fired a shot at a head constable, but was arrested before

he had injured anybody. He was tried and sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment, and his guns were confiscated. On enquiry it was ascertained that he had obtained these fire-arms in a wholly irregular manner from different persons. An enquiry was made as to the number of guns in the several States, and the Chiefs have been addressed on the subject of the licensing of guns and the limitation of their numbers.

The cheap price of distilled liquor in the Khasi Hills is a constant source of temptation to drunkenness, and special enquiries were made during the year with a view to ascertain the number and situation of stills, and the best method of controlling the traffic in spirits. The extent to which the registration of documents on the European principle is in force in the various native States in these hills also formed a subject of enquiry.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the people.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1905-1906.]

Prices of food and labour.

308. Owing to an unfavourable distribution of rainfall during the year, the rice crops were, throughout the province, except in parts of Assam and the Rajshahi division, much below the normal. In Sylhet, Tippera, Mymensigh, Dacca, and Bakarganj they were, moreover, damaged by floods and insects. The prices of food-grains were, consequently, high everywhere and reached famine rates towards the end of the year.

The poor outturn of crops was accompanied by a fall in wages in Noakhali and Bakarganj which are almost purely rice-growing districts, but in Kamrup, Dacca, and Mymensingh they showed a tendency to rise. The rise in Kamrup was due partly to high prices, but chiefly to a great demand for labour on the new Railway which is under construction. The rise of wages in Dacca and Mymensingh is explained by the Commissioner of the Dacca Division as follows :—

> The high prices for jute gave the labourer the cost he needed to buy rice. He, therefore, persisted in his aversion to manual labour for hire, and those who wanted labour for the jute industry, had to import it as usual and to pay higher wages.

Public health and material condition of the people.

309. The year was one of considerable hardship to the people in most parts of the province. The high prices entailed considerable suffering on them, but it was the land-less men and the classes dependent on charity and fixed incomes that suffered the most. In addition to these difficulties, the raiyats of the Assam Valley incurred heavy loss of cattle by flood and disease. Nearly every division, except the Rajshahi division, needed relief, and agricultural loans were distributed freely almost everywhere, notably in Sylhet, Tippera, Noakhali, and Bakarganj. In the last two districts, the distress was so acute that these loans had to be supplemented by the opening of relief works. It should be observed, however, that the condition of the raiyats, who grew jute, was much better : jute sold at a high price and yielded them a good profit.

310. Nor was the year favourable to public health, and it is only in the district of Rajshahi that it is reported to have been better than usual. Cholera was prevalent in all the divisions, and was especially severe in Rangpur, Mymensingh, Goalpara, and Kamrup ; there was much fever in Malda and Dinajpur ; *kala-azar* raged in the Mangaldai subdivision ; and a serious outbreak of small-pox occurred in Pabna, Chittagong, and Noakhali. It may be noticed that the health of the districts most affected by the scarcity was, with the exception of Noakhali and Sylhet, distinctly good.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

SECTION I.—Realization of the Revenue.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1905-1906.]

Miscellaneous land revenue.

311. An account of the year's demand, collections, and balance of land revenue will be found under Chapter V.—Revenue and Finance.

312. The current demand of the miscellaneous land revenue was Rs. 6,23,571. The collections were fair, Rs. 6,04,880, or 97·00 per cent. of this demand, being realized. Of the total demand, inclusive of arrears, Rs. 6,63,905, or 91·83 per cent., were collected. Remissions amounting to Rs. 1,327 were granted, and Rs. 57,742 remained outstanding at the close of the year. The bulk of the arrears was on account of fishery revenue in the districts of Sylhet and Darrang, and of survey and settlement charges recoverable in Bakarganj. The receipts of miscellaneous land revenue were mainly derived from settlement charges recoverable, fisheries, minerals and house-tax. The system of collecting the house-tax from the hill tribes in the South Sylhet subdivision of Sylhet through their headmen has proved a success, and has been extended by the appointment of two more such tax collectors.

Remittances of revenue and rent by money orders.

313. The system of payment of land revenue and cesses by special money orders is in force in every district in Eastern Bengal, and in Sylhet in Assam. The number of revenue money orders during the year was 165,882 and the sum remitted amounted to Rs. 11,03,411. The remittances in each of the districts of Dacca, Faridpur, and Chittagong exceeded a lakh of rupees. There can be little doubt that this system of payment is growing in popularity, especially among the proprietors of petty estates.

Payment of rent by money orders is in force in East Bengal only. Thirty-five thousand and eighty-four such money orders, covering Rs. 4,66,476, were issued during the year. The system does not seem to have made any advance in the popular estimation and, when resorted to, is a sign that relations between the landlord and the tenant, are strained. The Commissioners of Dacca and Rajshahi report that it is often taken advantage of by the tenants to avoid paying the illegal exactions of the landlord or his *amla*.

Operation of the Sale Law.

314. The number of estates, shares and interests which became liable to sale for non-payment of land revenue was 6,804, of which 609 were actually sold. The number of defaults increased by 936, but that of sales decreased by 783. The prices realized were on the average 6·8 times the revenue demand of the interests sold. It is satisfactory to note that there was only one case, out of 49 appeals filed before the Commissioners, in which it was found necessary to refer to Government for the annulment of sale on the ground of hardship. The chief causes, which led to estates in various districts being brought to sale during the year, were disputes among co-sharers, insolvency of the proprietors, and wilful defaults with a view to get the encumbrances annulled or owing to the discovery that the estates were unprofitable. The Sale Law was generally administered with due leniency and moderation.

Certificate procedure in Eastern Bengal.

315. Taking into account the agricultural conditions of the year, the administration of the certificate department was in general satisfactory.

Altogether 36,736 certificates were filed, of which the Dacca Division was responsible for 10,699, the Chittagong Division for 19,773, and the Rajshahi Division for 6,264. The figures for the first two divisions during the preceding year were 9,451 and 19,091, respectively, but those for the third are not available. The percentage of certificates disposed of to the total number for disposal shows a decrease in the Dacca Division from 82·9 to 80·7, and, in the Chittagong Division, from 79·1 to 77·3. In the Rajshahi Division 80 per cent. of the cases were disposed of. In all divisions the greater portion of the demands was satisfied on the issue of notices and on attachment of properties. Section 21 of the Act, which permits a judgment-debtor to redeem his property after sale by payment of the amount of the certificate with costs and of a penalty equal to one-tenth of the auction price, is reported to have worked well. There was no case of imprisonment for non-payment of Government demands.

Coercive measures under the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation,

316. Important changes were made in the law on the subject by Regulation II of 1905 in two respects, *viz.*, (1) the issue of notices of demand under section 68 of the Regulation was made optional, and (2) provision was made for the ejectment of the defaulters on annulment of the settlement of an estate under section 90. The first procedure was introduced experimentally in certain selected portions of all the plains districts in

Assam, except Sylhet, and is reported to have resulted in the speedy recovery of arrears everywhere, except in the district of Darrang. In spite of this innovation, there was an increase in the number of estates against which notices of demand were issued from 939,746 to 948,952. This increase was due principally to the substitution of mauzas for tahsils, as a result of which the tahsildars made special efforts to realize as much of the revenue as possible before handing over charge to the mauzadars. Attachments of moveables and immoveables, however, decreased from 22,998 to 20,300. In 1,537 cases it was necessary to proceed to sale.

Recourse was had to the second procedure, *viz.*, that of ejectment, only in the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur and in no other district.

There were fewer processes of all kinds issued for the realization of arrears during the year.

Processes.

317. The total amount of process fees realized was Rs. 1,87,921, which left a surplus of Rs. 69,618, after deducting the cost of establishment. The cost of the process-serving establishment exceeded the receipts from fees in Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Tippera, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Pabna, and Bogra in Eastern Bengal, and in Goalpara in Assam. The amount of process fees remitted in Assam was Rs. 7,150. The service of processes through the presidents of Village Unions was undertaken as an experiment in the districts of Tippera and Dacca.

Partitions.

318. Partitions are effected, in Eastern Bengal, under Act V (B.C.) of 1897, and, in Assam, under Chapter VI of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (I of 1886). Including cases pending in Eastern Bengal from the previous year, there were in all 235 cases for disposal, of which only 39 cases were disposed of. Partitions were effected in 31 cases, and the rest were struck off. The average cost per acre of partitions completed was Rs. 0-11-4 in Dacca, Rs. 0-5-6 in Mymensingh and Rs. 0-6-0 in Faridpur.

In Assam the number of applications nearly doubled during the year, and the pending cases increased from 134 to 170. Under rule 203 of the Assam Land Records Manual, the Land Records Sub-Deputy Collectors are empowered to give effect to undisputed cases of partitions the survey of which has already been carried out by the mandal, and many cases were disposed of in this way. This rule has, in practice, led to the formation of estates with a revenue demand of less than Rs. 5, against the provisions of Section 97 (I) (*a*) of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation. The matter is under consideration.

Redemption of land revenue.

319. There was no redemption of land revenue under the orders of Government during the year. The number of petty estates, formed by partitions and redeemed under Section II of the old Partition Act (Act VIII of 1876), was 76, all of which occurred in Dacca. No redemption of land revenue was allowed in Assam.

Land registration.

320. The total number of interests in land entered in the registers of Eastern Bengal under Section 38 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1876 increased by 5,500. The percentage of successful applications for mutation to the actual number of interests on the registers at the beginning of the year was 3·36. Land registration enquiries made through *panchayats* were found to be useful in Mymensingh, and the system has been extended to some other places as an experimental measure. The registers prescribed under the Act are reported to be generally in good condition. The amended Registration Rules, framed under Regulation II of 1905, were introduced in the districts of Cachar, Sylhet, Kamrup, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur. The marked decrease in the number of mutation cases in Assam was due to the introduction of the summary procedure, under which as many as 45,376 cases were disposed of locally. The court work was also satisfactory, as, out of 22,000 cases, 19,581 were disposed of. The percentage of cases disposed of locally and in court on the total number of estates liable to mutation was 10·69.

Land acquisition.

221. The total area taken up for public purposes was 1,737 acres, of which 601 acres were acquired in the transferred districts and 1,136 in the Assam districts. The amount of compensation paid was Rs. 3,87,660. The abatement of annual land revenue allowed on the lands acquired for, or at the cost of, Government amounted to Rs. 372. The average cost per acre of land acquired was Rs. 223, or, excluding the costly projects, Rs. 161 only.

Advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act.

322. The amount outstanding at the commencement of the year was Rs. 32,971, and advances amounting to Rs. 1,100 were made during the year. These loans appear to be unknown in Assam, and even in Eastern Bengal there is but a small demand for them. Embankment and irrigation works are not required on any large scale, and for the improvement of communications and water-supply the people generally look to Government. It is not likely that the Act will be of much benefit to this province until the landlords are less apathetic, and realize the

advantages, both to themselves and to their tenants, of effecting substantial improvements on their lands. The collections on account of principal amounted to Rs. 10,508, and, on account of interest, to Rs. 3,164.

Loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

323. A large sum of Rs. 2,57,613, on the other hand, had to be advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act during the year, owing to the abnormally depressed condition of agriculture. More than half of this amount was distributed in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. The larger portion of the rest was divided between the Assam Valley and the Surma Valley districts. The Rajshahi Division needed help the least. As a rule, loans were granted on bonds executed by persons jointly and severally, but in some places, especially in the Assam Valley, it was found difficult to adopt this system. Of the amount recoverable during the year, Rs. 28,537 were realized on account of principal, and Rs. 3,751 on account of interest.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

324. When the province was formed there were 11 Co-operative Credit Societies in Assam and 8 in Eastern Bengal. Of the latter, all but one were working unsatisfactorily, and had to be closed. Nine new Societies (6 in Eastern Bengal and 3 in Assam) were opened during the year. There are now 21 agricultural banks in the Province. They appear generally to have done useful work, and all of them, except one, showed a profit. The total sum lent up to date is Rs. 36,725, of which Rs. 18,172 was outstanding at the close of the year. A satisfactory feature of these Societies is the deposits made by the members, which amount to Rs. 4,284, or Rs. 5-13 for each member on the rolls.

The Shillong Society did particularly good work during the year.

It is somewhat early yet to express any definite opinion on these Societies, but there seems no doubt that, where they have been started, they have encouraged a spirit of self-reliance and thrift among the raiyats. The difficulties in the way of organizing them are, however, many, and are enhanced by want of mutual trust among the cultivators themselves, and by the suspicion with which they regard the movement. These antagonistic forces must be counteracted and the good intentions of Government must be brought home to the people, before the movement can attain any success.

SECTION 2.—Surveys and Settlements.

[The information given in this section for the survey and settlement operations in Eastern Bengal, under the control of the Superintendent of Provincial Surveys and the Director of Land Records, is for the year ending 30th September 1905, and is taken from the Survey and Settlement Reports, Bengal, for the year 1st October 1904—30th September 1905.]

Eastern Bengal. Work of the year.

325. Exclusive of certain minor operations, the work of the Survey and Settlement Departments in Eastern Bengal extended during the year over portions of the Bakarganj and Faridpur districts in the Dacca Division. The programme was carried out completely. The traverse survey covered 2,171 square miles, while the areas, cadastrally and topographically surveyed, were 1,158 square miles and 227 square miles, respectively. The number of villages of which the final record-of-rights was published during the year was 367.

326. The object of securing efficient administration at a minimum of cost was, as in previous years, kept prominently in view. There was a satisfactory reduction in the cost rate of traverse survey in Bakarganj from Rs. 57-1 to Rs. 43-4 per square mile. In the district of Faridpur, which was taken in hand during the year, it is noticeable that, even in the first year of the operations and with the well-known difficulties peculiar to Eastern Bengal, the cost was as low as Rs. 45-4 per square mile. As regards the cadastral survey and initial record-writing, which are by far the most expensive items of survey work, the cost rate in the district of Bakarganj was moderate, although, owing to the small size of the fields in the area dealt with, it was slightly higher than in the previous year (Rs. 145-4 against Rs. 130).

Administrative changes.

327. Experience having shown that the dual control of the Survey and Settlement Departments over cadastral survey and initial record-writing was no longer necessary in view of the experience gained by the Settlement Department, it was recommended, in consultation with the Surveyor General, that these items of work in Eastern Bengal should be transferred to the Settlement Department. These recommendations were accepted by the Supreme Government, and have been given effect to from the beginning of the field season of 1905. The settlement staffs concerned were put through a special course of training in cadastral survey under the Survey Department at the recess camps at Ranchi and Tittagur; and, as a further means of ensuring sufficient accuracy in the cadastral maps prepared under the supervision of the Settlement Department, an officer of the Survey Department has been attached to each settlement party as a professional adviser to the Settlement Officer.

The proposal to depute a few munsifs annually to settlement duty, in order to enable them to acquire a practical knowledge of the settlement procedure and the validity which attaches to the record at its various stages, was approved during the year by the High Court and sanctioned by the Supreme Government.

Assam.

328. Detailed information regarding the survey and settlement operations in Assam up to the end of the year ending 30th June 1905 will be found on page 9, Chapter II of the Report on the Administration of the Province of Assam for the year 1904-1905.

SECTION 3.—Land Records.

[Annual Report of the Department of Land Records, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1905.]

General.

329. Orders on the question of the maintenance of the land records in Chittagong have not been passed yet, but the general question of the maintenance of the settlement maps and records engaged the attention of the Bengal Government during the year, and an interesting experiment was initiated at Balasore by Mr. H. Savage, C.S.I., with a view to utilizing the village chaukidari panchayats in the scheme for the maintenance of records. Valuable experience is being gained by this experiment.

Maintenance of records in Government and Wards' Estates.

330. According to the standard laid down in the Bengal Board of Revenue Circular No. 11 of April 1903, the number of mutations, recorded annually in an estate, should not fall below 8 per cent. of the total number of tenancies, and it is gratifying to observe that this standard of efficiency was attained and even exceeded during the year in almost all the districts of Eastern Bengal.

As regards the inspection of rent-rolls, the prescribed standard of 50 per cent. was reached or exceeded in four out of the six Eastern Bengal districts. The number of unreported mutations discovered by means of this inspection was considerable.

Utilization of Land Records.

331. In districts which have been completely surveyed, or in which considerable areas have been surveyed, the settlement records are freely referred to in all branches of criminal and revenue work. It is reported that the presumption of correctness attaching to entries in the record-of-rights is understood by the Magistrates and the Police, and that in land disputes the parties are required to produce their *khatians*. In several districts, the police use the survey maps in preparing sketches of the scenes of crime. It is hoped that the issue of the thana index maps, accompanied by jurisdiction lists of villages, to the districts, the survey of which has been completed, will lead to a still more extended use of the settlement maps and records in the different departments of the district administration.

In all districts settlement records appear to be utilized wherever possible for collectorate work. They are referred to in Land Acquisition, Cess revaluation, Land registration, and Certificate work, and also in granting loans and advances, and in the management of Government and Wards' estates. In some districts, the description of land by survey numbers is insisted on in the Sub-Registry offices in tracts for which records-of-rights have been prepared.

Assam.

332. Information under this head for Assam up to 30th June 1905 will be found on page 11 of the General Administration Report of Assam for 1904-1905.

SECTION 4.—Settlement for special cultivation (Waste Lands).

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam Province for the year 1905-1906.]

Total area and revenue.

333. The area of land settled for special cultivation in Jalpaiguri amounted to 715,004 bighas, and yielded a revenue of Rs. 2,03,191. The area, so settled in Assam, was 2,063,106 bighas, and the revenue demand Rs. 7,08,215. In the latter tract, the area increased by 15,428 bighas, and the revenue by Rs. 13,341. This increase, which was due to new settlements and progressive enhancements, was shared by Sylhet, Darrang, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur. In Kamrup there was a decrease, and in Nowgong, while the area decreased, the revenue increased slightly.

Application for settlement.

334. In Eastern Bengal and Cachar there were no applications for settlement. In Sylhet, 6 new applications were filed and, out of 15 applications for disposal, settlement was effected in 6 cases and 4 were struck off. In the Assam Valley, 29 new applications were received, and, out of 51 applications for disposal, 29 were disposed of.

Resignation or resumption of grants.

335. No grant was resigned or relinquished in the Surma Valley or Eastern Bengal. In the Assam Valley, an area of 1,566·02 acres was relinquished, and settlement was annulled for arrears of revenue in respect of three grants.

SECTION 5.—Government Estates.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1905-1906.]

Number and management of estates.

336. The total number of estates under direct management rose from 1,511 to 1,538. This increase was due to auction purchases and resumptions. The most important addition to the list of these estates was that of the estate known as Chur Mir Mahomed Ali, Part I, in Noakhali. This estate was formerly farmed out, but the lease having expired, it has been taken under direct management. A tahsildar has been appointed for the purpose of collecting grazing fees and settling resident tenants on the *chur*, and it is expected that a satisfactory *rayatwari* settlement will be made.

Demand and collections.

337. The current demand of the Government estates was Rs. 21,13,380. Including arrears, the total demand increased from Rs. 24,09,595 to Rs. 24,49,187, of which Rs. 20,39,553, or 83·27 per cent., was collected. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 7·9. There was no material change, either in the managing agency or in the mode of management.

Allotment and expenditure.

338. The amount allotted by the Board for the management and improvement of Government estates during the year was Rs. 2,64,907, of which Rs. 1,67,421 were spent on management, and Rs. 83,996 on miscellaneous and sanitary improvements, leaving a large balance of Rs. 13,490, which lapsed. This sum could not be spent, as orders issued by the Board early in February allotting certain extra grants did not reach the District Officers till towards the end of the year.

Education.

339. Careful attention continued to be paid to education in Government estates. Although in the Dacca Division the expenditure under this head showed a decrease of Rs. 867, in the Chittagong Division it increased from Rs. 9,146 to Rs. 9,240, while in the Rajshahi Division Rs. 10,686 were spent for this purpose.

Condition of the raiyats.

340. The general condition of the tenants of Government estates was not satisfactory during the year. The scarcity, which prevailed throughout the province, affected them seriously also. It is, however, gratifying to note that they fared better than the tenants on private estates. Their rents were lighter, and more consideration was shown to them.

SECTION 6.—Wards' and Attached Estates.

[*See* Report of the Board of Revenue on the Wards' and Attached Estates in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906.]

Number of estates under management.

341. The total number of estates under the charge of the Court of Wards at the beginning of the year was 37. Eight new estates were brought under management during the year, and four estates were released, leaving 41 estates under management at its close.

Payment of rent and cesses.

342. The revenue and cesses due to Government were generally paid punctually, the total payments representing 98·3 per cent. of the demand. The outstandings due to superior landlords were much heavier in proportion, as, out of a total arrear and current demand of Rs. 4,79,231, only Rs. 3,20,363, or 66·8 per cent., was paid. This result was due to a variety of causes, such as want of funds, non-adjustment of accounts, diluvion, uncertainty as to whom payment should be made, and the like.

Collection of rent and cesses.

343. The total collections of rent and cesses due to the estates under management represented 98·9 per cent. of the current demand. The total uncollected balance amounted to Rs. 25,60,431, or 117·6 per cent. of the current demand of the estates. In the district of Chittagong the balances increased in most of the estates. In the previous year also, these estates showed a similar result, which was attributed to laxity on the part of the tahsil staff. The collecting agency is, however, reported to have done their best during the year, but better results could not be attained, owing to the partial failure of crops and the consequent rise in the prices of food-grains.

The total number of certificates, filed during the year, was 3,458, of which 2,158 were filed in four estates alone. The heavy arrears in two of them necessitated frequent recourse to the certificate procedure. In most of the estates there was a decrease in the number of civil suits instituted.

Reduction of debts.

344. Altogether Rs. 5,49,400 were paid in liquidation of debts. The balance of debts due at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 5,60,111.

Cost of management and expenditure on improvements.

345. The total cost of management was Rs. 2,64,282, or 12·1 per cent. of the current demand. The standard prescribed, *viz.*, 10 per cent. of the current demand, was exceeded in all the divisions.

A sum of Rs. 53,199 was spent on works of improvement, schools and dispensaries.

Condition of tenantry.

346. In the purely rice-growing districts, the tenantry suffered from the partial failure of the rice crop, but where jute is grown the high prices realized for the fibre compensated to some extent for the loss in rice. In no estate, however, was the condition of the raiyats prosperous during the year. The relation between them and the managing agency was in general satisfactory.

Education of wards.

347. The arrangements made for the education of the wards in the case of estates administered under Act IX (B.C) of 1879, which are detailed in paragraphs 22 of the Board's report, show that careful attention continues to be paid to this important subject.

Private estates managed by revenue authorities but not under the Court of Wards.

348. There was only one estate of which the management was taken by the revenue authorities under the orders of the Civil Court for the liquidation of its debts. The current demand of the estate amounted to Rs. 29,851 and the collections to Rs. 31,199. The debts have now been paid off, and the estate will be released in March next.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1905-1906, and Divisional Annual Miscellaneous Reports for 1905-1906.]

Relations between landlords and tenants Rajshahi Division.

349. In the Rajshahi Division, the relations between landlords and tenants were, on the whole, fairly satisfactory, although there were exceptions. In the district of Rajshahi, there was a good deal of friction between the Raja of Taherpur and his tenants, owing to an attempt made by the former to enhance rents. In the Naogaon subdivision, owing to the same cause, there were disputes between the zamindars of Lalgola, (Murshidabad) and of Santosh and their tenants, leading to cases under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code. In Rangpur, the strained relations between the tenants of pargana Gayabari and the Maharaja of Cossimbazar, which are due to a fundamental disagreement as to the nature and condition of the tenancies of the pargana, continued as acute as ever. A survey and record-of-rights can alone settle the dispute.

Dacca Division.

350. In the Dacca Division, none of the District Officers specially commended the conduct of any of the zamindars, who are mostly absentees and look upon their tenants merely as a source of income. No instances of tension were, however, reported from any district except Bakarganj and Mymensingh. In Bakarganj there was a combination of tenants in thana Golachipa against their landlords, and punitive police had to be quartered from August to December 1905, at the cost of both. In Mymensingh, where the tenants, with the increasing knowledge of their rights, are becoming more and more disposed to resist illegal exactions, the feeling between the two parties became more strained, owing to the anti-partition agitation and the attempt to enforce a boycott of European goods. Irritated by the former, and with their pockets touched by the latter, the raiyats, who are mostly Musalmans, showed considerable resentment on account of religious, social, and agrarian disabilities in which they have hitherto acquiesced. In Dacca, the tenants of the Bhowal Raj complained of the exaction of an illegal "*tahrir*" or collection cess, of 2½ annas per rupee.

Chittagong Division.

351. In the Chittagong Division the relations between landlords and tenants continued to be peaceful.

Assam.

352. In Assam, the settlement-holders are, as a rule, peasant proprietors, cultivating their own lands and paying revenue direct to Government. Subletting is not unknown but, except in Goalpara and the Surma Valley, is not very common. They have therefore no landlords to deal with except the Government.

Working of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

353. The Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885, governs the relations of landlord and tenant in the Regulation districts of Eastern Bengal, and in part of the Scheduled district of Jalpaiguri. It is reported to have worked smoothly on the whole, but there were instances in which its provisions were evaded both by landlords and tenants when they conflicted with their interests, and the Board are of opinion that amendments of the Act, such as those proposed in Bengal, are called for in this Province also. The reluctance on the part of the landlords to take the prescribed landlord's fees payable on transfers of permanent tenures and permanent holdings continued, nor did they make much use of the provisions of the law, requiring them to file a notice of re-entry on abandoned lands in the Collector's office.

CHAPTER III—PROTECTION.

SECTION 1.—Legislative Authority.

Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council.

354. On the creation of this Province, a Legislative Council was established in Eastern Bengal and Assam by a Proclamation of the Governor General of India in Council published in the *Gazette of India* under Notification No. 2832, dated the 1st September 1905. The provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, regarding the making of Laws and Regulations in Madras and Bombay, were extended to the new province, and the Lieutenant-Governor was authorised to nominate 15 Councillors for legislative purposes, the nominations to be subject to the sanction of the Governor General. The Proclamation was declared to take effect from the 16th day of October 1905, but the Council was not formed during the year.

By Regulations made under the Indian Councils Act, 1892, which were published on the 16th October 1905, it was provided—

(1) that not more than 7 of the 15 members shall be officials;

(2) that nominations to six seats shall be made on the recommendation of the Commissioners of the Port of Chittagong, of such local bodies (Municipal Corporations and District and Local Boards) and of such associations of landholders, merchants, manufacturers, and tradesmen as the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time prescribe by notification in the *Eastern Bengal and Assam Gazette*; and

(3) that the remaining seats reserved for non-official members shall be filled by persons nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor, in such a manner as will, in his opinion, secure a fair representation of the different classes of the community.

The same Regulations made it a condition that the persons, recommended by the Municipal Corporations and by the District Boards, must be local residents.

The Council will have full powers to make laws for the peace and good government of the province, but it will be debarred, under Section 43 (read with Section 48) of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, from dealing, without the previous sanction of the Governor General, with any laws for any of the following purposes:—

(1) affecting the public debt of India, or the customs duties, or any other tax or duty now in force and imposed by the authority of the Government of India for the general purposes of such Government;

(2) regulating any of the current coin, or the issue of any bills, notes or other paper currency;

(3) regulating the conveyance of letters by the post office or messages by the electric telegraph within the province;

(4) altering in any way the Penal Code of India, as established by Act of the Governor General in Council, No. XLV of 1860.

(5) affecting the religious rites and usages of any class of His Majesty's subjects in India;

(6) affecting the discipline or maintenance of any part of His Majesty's Military or Naval Forces;

(7) regulating patents or copyrights; or

(8) affecting the relations of the Government with foreign Princes or States.

Laws passed by the Eastern Bengal and Assam Council are called "Acts," and have no validity until the assent of the Governor General has been obtained, and such assent signified to, and published by, the Lieutenant-Governor. They may be disallowed by the Crown, or may be repealed or amended by an Act or Regulation of the Governor General in Council.

Rules under the powers conferred by Section 2 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, were made and published by the Lieutenant-Governor in May 1906. They authorise members of the Council to ask questions as to matters of fact framed so as to be merely requests for information, and neither argumentative, hypothetical nor defamatory, subject to disallowance by the Lieutenant-Governor on the ground that they could not be answered consistently with public interests. No question may be asked as to any matters or branches of the Administration other than those under the control of the

Lieutenant-Governor, and no discussion shall be permitted in any case. The rule empower Councillors to offer any observations they may wish to make on the Financial Statement of the Government, which is to be annually explained in Council. The member who explains it will have the right of reply, and the discussion, limited to the branches of revenue and administration which are under the control of the Local Government, will be closed by the President.

Acts of the Governor General's Council.

355. In addition to the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council, there are three other ways in which measures of legislation are brought into force in the province: The first is the ordinary method, common to the whole of India, of passing Acts in the Council of the Governor General for making Laws and Regulations.

Regulations under 33 Victoria, Chapter 3, Section 1.

356. The second is the method of passing Regulations in accordance with the provisions of 33 Victoria, Chapter 3, Section 1 (an Act to make better provisions for making Laws and Regulations for certain parts of India, and for certain other purposes relating thereto). The Act is, by Resolutions passed by the Secretary of State for India in Council, applicable to the districts of Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Cachar and Goalpara, the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia, and Naga Hills, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Under its provisions, the Local Government has power "to propose to the Governor General in Council drafts of any Regulations, together with the reasons for the same, for the peace and government of the territories under its jurisdiction." Such drafts, when approved by the Governor General in Council and after they have received the Governor General's assent, are published in the *Gazette of India*, and thereupon have the force of law.

Extension under Section 5 of the Scheduled Districts Act.

357. The third is to make use of Section 5 of Act XIV of 1874 (The Scheduled Districts Act), which declares that "the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, may, from time to time, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, and also in the local Gazette (if any), extend to any of the scheduled districts, or to any part of any such district, any enactment which is in force in any part of British India at the date of such extension." Assam is one of the scheduled districts under the Act (Schedule I, Part X), and the Act was declared to be in force in that portion of the province by notification on the 7th November 1877. Since that date, numerous Acts in force in other parts of India have, under the powers given by Section 5, been brought into force in Assam. The Chittagong Hill Tracts and Jalpaiguri are also scheduled districts, but the Act has only been brought into force in the latter.

Parliament.

358. Lastly, Parliament retains power to legislate for Eastern Bengal and Assam in common with other British possessions.

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation.

Act VII of 1905.

359. The only Act passed by the Imperial Legislature affecting this province was the Bengal and Assam Laws Act, 1905. Upon the constitution of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam on the 16th October 1905, under Proclamation No. 2832, dated the 1st September, it became necessary to make provision for the adaptation and application of the laws hitherto in force in the territories affected.

By this Act all existing laws are maintained in their entirety, except the Assam Chief Commissionership Act, 1874, and the Sylhet Act, 1874, which are wholly repealed. The only substantive provision in the Act is for the constitution for the new province of a Board of Revenue, to which the provisions of the Bengal Board of Revenue Regulation, 1822, and the Bengal Board of Revenue Act, 1850, apply, so far as may be. It is laid down that this Board shall, in respect of the fourteen districts transferred from the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, discharge all the functions which, immediately before the passing of the Act, were vested in the Board of Revenue for the Lower Provinces of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, and, in respect of the whole or any part of Assam, such of the functions of the Chief Commissioner of Assam as may be delegated to it.

Act IV(B.C.) of 1865.

360. The following Act was extended by the Local Administration to the whole of the plains districts of Assam:—

Act IV (B.C.) of 1865 (an Act for the prohibition of the practice of inoculation).

361. No Act was passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the period up to October 15th, 1905, directly affecting the Eastern Bengal districts.

SECTION 3.—Police.

[*See* Report on the Police Administration of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905 ; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section VII.]

Administration.

362. In Assam, before the 16th October 1905, the Police Department was administered by an Inspector General, who was also in charge of Jails, Excise and Registration. There was no separate cadre of superior police establishment, but the services of officers were obtained from Bengal. On the constitution of this province, the Government of India sanctioned provisionally a cadre of two Deputy Inspectors General, twenty-three Superintendents of Police and twenty Assistant Superintendents. The Inspector General was relieved of all other duties. The plains districts were divided into two ranges, each under the immediate supervision of a Deputy Inspector General, the one consisting of the 14 transferred districts with Dacca as headquarters, and the other consisting of 8 Assam districts with Silchar as headquarters ; the Railway and River Police were placed in charge of an Assistant Inspector General, and a Criminal Investigation Department and Special Branch were organised under an officer with the rank of Superintendent. Military Police and the hill districts generally were left in the immediate control of the Inspector General.

MILITARY POLICE.

363. The actual strength of the several Military Police Battalions on the 31st December 1905 was short of the sanctioned strength by one Subadar and 48 sepoys and 1 bugler.

Discipline.

364. With trifling exceptions, the discipline of all the Battalions was excellent, and there was a decrease in the number of resignations and dismissals. The Naga Hills Battalion was inspected by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Lakhimpur Battalion by the Officer Commanding Assam Brigade, and both were satisfied with all that they saw.

Enlistment.

365. The total number of men enlisted fell from 216 to 79. This decrease was due to the reduction of the Silchar Battalion, to the stoppage of recruitment for the Garo Hills Battalion, and to the fact that some of the recruiting parties had not returned before the close of the year. The percentage of Gurkhas enlisted was 65·8.

Mortality.

366. There were 40 deaths, against 44 in 1904, the main causes of death being phthisis, cholera, pneumonia, fever and tuberculosis of the lungs. Six men of the Lakhimpur Battalion were accidently drowned.

Punishments.

367. There was a slight increase in the number of departmental punishments in the Garo Hills, Naga Hills and Lushai Hills Battalions; but in the Silchar and the Lakhimpur Battalions and the Dacca detachment, such punishments showed a decrease. With the exception of the Silchar Battalion, there were fewer judicial punishments in all the Battalions.

Military operations, extra duties, etc.

368. Two trans-frontier expeditions, one to Mozungjami and another to Yachumi, were carried out by detachments of the Naga Hills Battalion in a manner worthy of its high reputation. In Dacca and Barisal, the Military Police, deputed to preserve peace, showed great restraint and good discipline, and the trying task of guarding the Jail camp at Sylhet was performed without a hitch.

CIVIL POLICE.

369. The following statement gives details of the strength of the Civil Police force, including the Railway and the River Police, during the past two years :—

	Sanctioned strength.		Actual strength.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
Deputy Inspectors General	...	2	...	2
Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police ...	32	43	34	34
Civil Police, including the Armed reserve, Railway and River Police (*i.e.*, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, head constables and constables) ...	9,152	9,363	8,998	8,969
Union Police ...	8	...	8	...

The entertainment of 9 Inspectors was sanctioned during the year towards the increase of cadre recommended by the Police Commission : the number of Sub-Inspectors was increased by 51, and that of head constables by 95. Fifty-four new constables were appointed.

Reforms.

370. With the exception of a few additions to the inferior police cadre and a few promotions, the only reforms affecting the pay of the force which took effect during the year were the raising of the minimum pay of Sub-Inspectors and constables throughout the province, and that of Inspectors and head constables in the Eastern Bengal range to the standard, the abolition of grades and partial introduction of the system of approved service increments among constables, and the grant of a daily allowance of Re. 1 to Circle Inspectors when on tour.

Training schools.

371. No training schools have yet been established in this province. With the consent of the Government of Bengal the newly appointed probationary Sub-Inspectors were sent to the Bhagalpur training school for instruction. Arrangements are being made to establish a training school for Sub-Inspectors at Dacca.

Recruitment.

372. Eight hundred and four officers and men were enlisted. Of these, only 148 were Muhammadans, the rest being Hindus.

Discipline.

373. Whenever possible, the men at headquarters were put through instruction in physical and manual drill and the firing exercises. Discipline was fairly good in most of the districts except in Dacca, Sylhet, and Dinajpur. The force showed great tact and forbearance in the trying conditions that prevailed in the East Bengal districts towards the close of the year. "As proof of the good temper and restraint shown throughout the force," observed the Inspector General of Police in his report, "it is only necessary to say that against no officer or constable has a charge been brought home of causing of any bodily injury to any person wrongfully,—and further that, although on several occasions the police was called on to quell disturbances in which force were used and blows were struck, yet in no instance was any serious bodily injury caused to any person."

The number of departmental punishments (2,052), though substantially less than in the previous year, was still large, but it should be observed that the figure includes warnings as well as minor punishments, and that only one per cent. of the officers and two per cent. of the men were dismissed.

Additional (including punitive) police.

374. Six Sub-Inspectors, 19 head constables, and 140 constables were employed as extra and preventive police. They were entertained in the districts of Rangpur, Pabna, Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Malda, Goalpara, and the Khasi Hills to prevent breaches of the peace and to guard treasure on railway lines under construction.

Special police constables under section 17 of Act V of 1861.

375. One hundred and thirty-one persons were appointed special constables in the districts of Rangpur, Chittagong, and Sylhet. Of the 23 special constables appointed in Rangpur town, 13 refused to serve as such, and were prosecuted, but the charge was subsequently withdrawn.

Railway Police.

376. The police control on the Gauhati-Tinsukia section of the Assam-Bengal Railway was, before the partition of Bengal, under the Assam Administration, while the remaining portion of the line was under the Government of Bengal. On the formation of the new province, the police of the whole of the Assam-Bengal Railway line was brought under the new Administration and placed in charge of an Assistant Inspector General of Government Railway Police, who was also entrusted with the charge of the police of the Dacca section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway from Narainganj to Jagannathganj.

An increase of 103 is reported in the number of Railway cases: 101 Railway accidents occurred, but most of them were unimportant.

Rural Police.

377. Chaukidars were employed in all the districts of Eastern Bengal and in Sylhet, Cachar, and Goalpara. Their total number was 57,204, of which all, except 665 employed in Cachar, were appointed under Act VI (B. C.) of 1870. The desirability of restricting the number of chaukidars to actual requirements has often been emphasized; but nevertheless there was a further addition of 329 men to the village police during 1905. The necessity of guarding against unnecessary addition to the rural police has been impressed upon District Officers. The chaukidars in all districts are recruited mainly from amongst Muhammadans and low caste Hindus. For some years efforts have been made to obtain men of the better classes for this kind of work, but nowhere has this proved a success. The daffadari system is in force throughout the Eastern Bengal districts. A daffadar is employed to supervise a circle comprising the beats of 10 or more chaukidars, and is exempted from the duty of watch and ward. The total cost of the rural police increased from Rs. 34,51,880 to Rs. 35,29,564.

During the year a scheme devised by Mr. Savage for improving the status of the village panchayats and entrusting to them greater powers was introduced experimentally in the Dacca and Tippera districts and the Nator subdivision of Rajshahi. This

system, whereby crime is reported to the panchayat, has certainly led to information being more regularly given of petty offences, and has so far fulfilled its author's expectations

Cost of the Department.

378. The total cost of the Department was Rs. 31,46,983, or Rs. 24,036 less than in the preceding year.

Statistics of crime.

379. The total number of cognizable offences reported to the police increased from 44,003 to 49,395, and of this increase, about half may be ascribed to the use made in Dacca and Tippera of the facilities for reporting to the president of the panchayat. But a good many more complaints were made before Magistrates, and, taking cognizable and non-cognizable cases together, the number instituted during the year was 126,621, against 121,570 in 1904. Of the cases instituted before the police, 76·4 per cent. were investigated, and in 17 per cent. enquiry was refused. The police were less successful than in the previous year in detection, and, of a total of 39,299 cases returned as true, only in 39 per cent. were the offenders detected and apprehended. Convictions were, on the other hand, obtained by them in 82·5 per cent. of the cases. Of the 37,722 cases investigated, 1,619, or 4·4 per cent., were found to be maliciously false, but only in 209 cases were prosecutions instituted and only 80 convictions obtained. In 76 cases the informants were summarily fined under section 250, Criminal Procedure Code.

Remands.

380. Remands granted in the trial of police cases show a tendency to increase. The percentage of cases decided at the first two hearings fell from 52·7 to 43·7, and the percentage of cases remanded over six times reached 5·6. In Bakarganj, Sylhet, and Cachar, not 30 per cent. of the cases were decided at the first two hearings, while Pabna, Mymensingh, Faridpur, and Chittagong showed results but little better.

Details of crime.

381. An examination of the detailed figures of crime shows that there were fewer riots than in the previous year, the number of true cases of rioting this year being 1,000; coupled with the decrease of riots, there was also a substantial diminution in serious offences against the person. There was, however, an increase in the number of murders, the majority of which were the result of intrigues with women, domestic quarrels, and land and money disputes, and in the serious offences against property. The very serious increase in the number of dacoities from 64 to 104 was probably due partly to the high prices and partly to the fact that in Bogra some unreported cases of previous years were brought to light during enquiries into a gang case.

Escapes from custody.

382. Sixty-four men escaped from police custody, of whom 50 were recaptured and 14 were still at large at the close of the year. It is noticeable that, out of the 64 escapes, 38 occurred in the Assam range, and 26 in Eastern Bengal.

Preventive measures.

383. The preventive sections of the Procedure Code were less freely used during this year than in the last. The diminution of the proceedings against the habitual offenders was, however, due in part to the institution of cases under sections 400 and 401, Indian Penal Code, against the more notorious gangs.

The Finger-print Bureau.

384. The number of references made to the Finger-print Bureau was 1,080, and in 27 cases the persons concerned were traced. Four hundred and seventy-five references were made to the Bureau by the Provincial Police regarding persons not locally identified, of whom 19 were traced as old offenders by their finger impressions, the percentage of success being 4·0. Two prisoners, who had escaped from the Gauhati jail but were subsequently arrested, were identified by the Bureau, notwithstanding that they had given false names, and in four cases experts were sent out to prove identity by means of finger-prints.

Unnatural deaths.

385. The number of unnatural deaths was 13,714. Four hundred men, 75 women, and 40 children committed suicide; 999 men, 726 women, and 5,959 children were drowned; 716 men, 911 women, and 701 children died of snake bite; 230 men, 62 women, and 191 children were killed by wild animals; and 40 men, 21 women, and 44 children died from injuries sustained in building accidents. The number of deaths from other causes was 622 men, 289 women, and 1,004 children.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

[*See* Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1905, and the Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IV.]

Judicial staff.

386. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 13 Sessions Judges, 2 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year, and 2 Additional Sessions Judges employed temporarily for various periods. One Subordinate Judge was vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge, and exercised these powers for 13 days. He decided 4 sessions cases.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year consisted of 197 stipendiary and 443 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 22 and 2, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. Three special Magistrates, appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, were employed on criminal work at Hatiya in the district of Noakhali and at Lakhimpur and Cachar. They decided 98 cases. Of the 197 stipendiary Magistrates, 128 exercised first-class powers, 44 second, and 25 third-class powers.

There were 56 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among the 443 Honorary Magistrates. Of these, 54 were independent, and 2 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

387. There were 118,012 criminal offences reported during the year, an increase of 68 on the figures of 1904. Of these, 96,367 were under the Penal Code, and 21,645 were under Special and Local Laws. The increase in the offences under the former head was most marked in Tippera, Dacca, Bakarganj, and Sylhet, while there was a noticeable decrease in Mymensingh.

Cases found to be false.

388. Including cases pending inquiry at the close of 1904, the number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed during the year, was 33·8 per cent. of the number reported. The percentage for 1904 was 31·8.

Cases found to be true.

389. Seventy-eight thousand five hundred and thirty-seven cases were found to be true, and of these, 54,267 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 8,141 cases.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

Cases disposed of.

390. At the opening of the year 2,690 cases, excluding cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates. During the year 54,288 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, or 767 less than in the previous year, were brought to trial, 54,404 were disposed of, and 2,559 were pending at its close. The decrease occurred chiefly in cases under Special and Local Laws. There was an increase in the number of cases against property, and of miscellaneous offences under the Penal Code, and a slight decrease in the number of cases of offences affecting the human body and against public tranquillity. Of the cases disposed of, 1,220 were decided by District Magistrates, 42,995 by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, 10,033 by Honorary Magistrates and Benches, and 98 by Special Magistrates. There were 44,011 trials under ordinary and 10,375 under summary procedure. Of the 772 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, 6 were decided by the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Jalpaiguri in exercise of the special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 18 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Results of trials.

391. The number of persons, whose cases were decided by Magistrates, was 79,867. Of these, 48·2 per cent. were convicted, the percentage in 1904 being 49·2.

Of the persons convicted, 9,516 were tried summarily, and the rest regularly. Of the former, appealable sentences were passed on 771 persons and of the latter, on 18,761 persons.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of the year was 4,450, of whom 379 were in custody.

Punishments.

392. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows :—

Imprisonment	Rigorous	10,181
	Simple	296
Fine ...	With imprisonment	1,499
	Without imprisonment	22,227
Whipping ...	Sole punishment	478
	Additional punishment	96

A term of solitary confinement was included in 198 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and, in the case of 7 youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a reformatory school. One thousand three hundred and three persons were called upon to give security for good behaviour, and 1,179 of these were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. One hundred and five persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 66 instances, and

71 persons were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 4,517 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 1,021 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace.

Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 2,080 were for terms not exceeding 15 days ; 6,544 for terms not exceeding six months ; 3,006 for terms not exceeding two years ; and 19 for terms exceeding two years.

Sentences of whipping were slightly larger in number than in the preceding year.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 2,85,949, of which Rs. 2,55,430 were realized. Rupees 37,129 were paid as compensation to complainants.

Miscellaneous proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code.

393. Two thousand one hundred and forty-nine proceedings were taken under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 8,365 persons were involved, and 3,499 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace.

In 915 cases, 2,025 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 1,405. Of these, 1,281 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by Magistrates during the year was 868.

Under section 250 of the Code, 357 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, the accusations brought having been found to be frivolous or vexatious.

Witnesses.

394. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates was 217,015, or 3,579 more than in the previous year. Of the total number in attendance, 75·9 per cent. were discharged on the first day of the trial, 17·9 per cent. on the second, and 4·8 per cent. on the third. The number detained for more than three days was 4,329, a considerable decrease over the figures of 1904. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 23,972 to Rs. 31,309.

II.—COURTS OF SESSION.

Commitments, etc.

395. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 878, and the number disposed of, including pending cases of the previous year, was 862, leaving 117 pending at its close. The commitments exceeded those of 1904 by 78.

Results of trials.

396. In the above cases 2,093 persons were involved, of whom 1,813 persons were tried, and 268 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the persons tried, 1,069, or 58·9 per cent., were convicted, and 667 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 76 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of the Criminal Procedure. The case of one person was referred under section 341.

Punishments.

397. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year :—

Death		37
Transportation	For life	75
	For a term of years	53
Imprisonment	Rigorous	832
	Simple	4
Fine		43
Whipping		3

In the cases of 57 out of the 832 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement ; and, in the cases of three youthful offenders, sentences of imprisonment were commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Additional punishments were inflicted upon 40 of the persons sentenced to fine, and on all of those sentenced to whipping. Besides the above, 102 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (25 for terms not exceeding one year and 77 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and three persons, who had been convicted of an offence involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment. The aggregate of the fines imposed was Rs. 7,997, and the realizations, including arrears of previous years, amounted to Rs. 1,865. Out of this amount, Rs. 450 was paid as compensation to complainants.

Jury trials.

398. There were 592 persons tried by jury. The Sessions Judge approved the verdict of the jury in respect of 519, and disapproved of it in respect of 73. In the case of 39, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Trials by Assessors.

399. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 1,007 with the result that, in the case of 704, the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the assessors; in the case of 127, he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 176, he differed from the opinion of both.

Duration of cases.

400. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, was 41·6 days, as compared with 51·2 days in 1904. The reduction in the average period of the duration of sessions trials is satisfactory. Much attention was paid to this matter by the High Court, and all cases of unusual duration were carefully scrutinized with the object of ascertaining if the prisoners were unnecessarily detained under trial.

Witnesses.

401. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 16,039. Of these, 9,487 were examined and 6,552 discharged without examination.

Of the total number in attendance, 47·2 per cent. were discharged on the first day; 28·5 per cent. on the second day; 13·6 per cent. on the third day; and 10·7 per cent. after the third day. The results show that witnesses have been detained for a slightly longer period than in 1904. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 23,742.

Commitments, etc., to the High Court.

402. A case of a European British subject was committed by the Magistrate of Tippera to the Original Jurisdiction of the High Court during the year.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—HIGH COURT.

403. At the beginning of 1905 there were 30 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year, 409 appeals were preferred and 412 decided, leaving 27 pending at its close. The numbers preferred and decided were more than in 1904 by 14 and 7, respectively, and the pending cases less by three.

Of the appeals preferred, 408 were from Courts of Session, and 1 from the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Two appeals were preferred by Government against orders of acquittal.

Results of appeals.

404. Four hundred and ten appeals against the sentences of Courts of Session were disposed of. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 318 instances, reversed in 22, and modified in 66. Four cases were remanded for re-trial. In the appeal from the sentence of the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri, the original order was confirmed. One appeal by Government against an order of acquittal was decided, and the case was directed to be re-tried.

II.—APPELLATE COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Sessions Courts.

405. There were 95 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the beginning of the year, and during the year 2,493 appeals were preferred. Of these, 2,491 were decided, and 92 were pending at the close of the year. Five appeals were either transferred to other districts for hearing or abated on the death of the appellants. The number of appeals preferred to Sessions Judges was greater by 22 than in 1904.

406. In the appeals decided by Sessions Judges 3,989 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,080 of these, or 27 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 1,463 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 615 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 769 were acquitted; and, in the case of 62 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. Taking into account admitted appeals only, the results were less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts.

407. In the Courts of Magistrates there were 95 appeals pending at the beginning of the year, and during the year 2,335 appeals were preferred. Of these 2,307 were decided and 123 were pending at the close of the year. The number preferred was larger than in 1904 by 29.

The number of persons, whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates, was 3,684. Of these, the appeals of 687 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 1,586, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 2,273 wholly

unsuccessful appellants, or 61·6 per cent. Of the remainder, 403 appellants, or 10·9 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 983, or 26·7 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 22 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. These results are practically the same as those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE, AND REVISION.

I.—HIGH COURT.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

408. Six references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 26 were made during the year. Twenty-nine of these were decided during the year, 3 remaining undecided at its close. The verdict of the jury was accepted in 9 cases, set aside in 17, and modified in 1. Two cases were remanded for re-trial.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

409. Thirty references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death-sentences were made to the High Court during 1905, and 2 were left pending from the previous year. Thirty of these, involving 33 persons, were disposed of. The death-sentence on 22 was confirmed, and, in the cases of 10, the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. In the case of one person, a re-trial was ordered, and three persons were acquitted.

References under section 341, Code of Criminal Procedure.

410. Three cases involving three persons who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings of the Court, were referred for the orders of the High Court. In two of these, the convictions were approved and sentence passed by the High Court; and, in the remaining case, a re-trial was ordered.

One application was also made to the High Court by the Government under section 339, clause (3), of the Criminal Procedure Code, for sanction to prosecute, under section 193 of the Indian Penal Code, a witness for the offence of giving false evidence. Sanction was given.

Revision.

411. There were 137 cases reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 5 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 138 were decided, and 4 remained pending. In 70 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 28 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 8 cases, and enhanced in one. In the remaining 31 cases, the High Court declined to interfere.

Orders were passed under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in 477 cases. Of these, 465 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 12 were taken up on review of the periodical sessions statements submitted by Sessions Judges.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 220 were rejected. Of 245 rules issued, 69 were finally discharged; 118 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 24 cases, and in 34 cases a new trial was ordered.

Of the 12 cases taken up by the High Court on review of sessions statements, in 11 the orders passed by the Lower Courts were not disturbed, and in 1 a re-trial was ordered.

Applications for transfer.

412. Two applications, under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the transfer of cases from one Court or district to another were on the files at the opening of the year, and 38 were made during the year. Of these, 38 were dealt with, 7 were summarily rejected, and in 6 cases transfers were granted without issue of a rule. In 25 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 23, and refused in 2 cases.

II.—COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Sessions Courts.

413. The Courts of Session decided the cases of 4,540 persons on revision. Of these, the applications of 1,999 were rejected. The orders of the Lower Court were confirmed in cases of 758 persons, reversed or modified in those of 27, and in 6 instances proceedings were quashed. In the cases of 1,514 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed, and the cases of 236 persons were referred to the High Court.

Magistrates' Courts.

414. The cases of 2,430 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The applications of 737 persons were rejected, and, in the cases of 728, the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 11 persons were modified, and those affecting 73 were reversed. In the cases of 10 persons, proceedings were quashed, and, in those of 856 persons, new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 15 persons were referred to the High Court.

GENERAL.

Trials of European British subjects.

415. Twenty-eight European British subjects were tried in Criminal Courts during the year, or 8 more than in the previous year: 27 were dealt with by Magistrates, and 1 by the High Court. Three claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. Of those tried by Magistrates, 18 were convicted and 9 acquitted. Seven were convicted for offences under Special and Local Laws, six for criminal force and assault, four for hurt, and one for criminal misappropriation of property. One person, whose case came before the High Court in its Original Jurisdiction, was charged with committing mischief and was convicted.

Receipts and charges.

416. The total charges of the Criminal Courts amounted to Rs. 12,01,003 and the receipts to Rs. 6,70,121. The receipts and the charges exceeded those of 1904 by over Rs. 7,000 and Rs. 34,000, respectively.

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

Criminal Justice in Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

417. Nine hundred and fifty-six cases were brought to trial during 1905 in the Criminal Courts of the hill districts and frontier tracts of the province, of which 874 were disposed of. The number of persons implicated in the cases decided was 1,652, of whom 959, or 57 per cent., were convicted. Forty-two appeals were preferred during the year to Deputy Commissioners against the orders of Subordinate Magistrates, and there were 25 appeals to Government against the orders of Deputy Commissioners. All of these appeals were disposed of. The orders of the Lower Courts were confirmed by Deputy Commissioners in the case of 25 persons, reversed in the case of six, and modified in the case of eleven. Of the 25 appeals to Government, convictions were modified in 5 cases. The receipts of the Courts amounted to Rs. 8,001 and the charges to Rs. 43,979.

SECTION 5.—Jails.

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905, Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section V.]

Number of Jails.

418. The number of district and subsidiary jails at the close of the year was 21 and 38, respectively.

Jail population.

419. The number of prisoners of all classes, who passed through the jails and subsidiary jails of the province during the year, was 34,378, or 1,168 more than in 1904. This increase was due almost entirely to an increase in the number of under-trial admissions, especially noticeable in the case of the jails in Assam. The daily average jail population (7,139·10) was about 3½ per cent. higher than the average of the preceding year.

The total number of convicts at the beginning of the year was 6,031; 13,303 were imprisoned during the year, against 13,183 in 1904; 1,865 were released on appeal; 8,434 on expiry of sentence; 2,252 under the remission rules; 24 were released by order of Government on account of sickness, and 8 on other grounds; 4 were transferred to lunatic asylums; 6 escaped; 18 were executed; and there were 201 deaths, against 138 in the previous year. The number remaining at the end of the year was 6,230, and the daily average for the year was 6,277·76, against 6,106·12 of the preceding year. The number of convicts admitted to jail and the average daily jail strength per ten thousand of the population were 2·1 and 4·4, respectively. These figures would show this province to be the least criminal of all the provinces of British India; but it is probable that a great deal of crime escapes detection, and that, amidst the vast network of rivers and fens in the southern and western districts, criminals enjoy a good deal of immunity from the police.

Reconvictions.

420. The number of reconvicted prisoners was 1,297, against 1,256 in 1904, and the ratio per cent. to the total number of convicts admitted was 9·75, against 9·62 in the previous year. Of these, 972 were identified before conviction, and 33 after admission into jail, while 19 confessed themselves to be habitual criminals.

Under-trial prisoners.

421. There were 744 under-trial prisoners under detention at the beginning of the year, and 14,516 were received during the year, against 13,447 in 1904. The number at the end of the year was 820. The average period of detention in magistrates' cases in Assam decreased from 12·92 in 1904 to 11·77 in 1905, while that in sessions cases increased from 20·58 to 23·33 days.

Civil prisoners.

422. The number of civil prisoners received during the year was 274, against 350 in 1904.

PROTECTION.

Escapes.

423. There were 22 escapes from central, district, and subsidiary jails, only one being from jails in Eastern Bengal and the rest from Assam. Of these escapes, 9 were from inside and 13 from outside the jail. Sixteen prisoners were recaptured during the year, and 4, who had escaped in previous years, were also recaptured.

Prison discipline.

424. The number of offences committed by convicts decreased from 7,557 to 7,418. The corporal punishments numbered 66, against 82 in 1904. Special enquiries made under the orders of the Government of India brought out the fact that old offenders are punished more often than prisoners who are new to jail conditions.

Health of the inmates.

425. Though the daily proportion of sick (43·09 per thousand) was much higher than in the preceding year, it was lower than in the years 1900 to 1902. The death-rate was 31·09 per thousand, higher than in any year since 1900. The increase in the number of deaths was due to dysentery, tubercle of lungs, and largely to an epidemic of *beri-beri* in the Sylhet jail. In five jails cases of cholera occurred, and there was generally much dysentery and diarrhœa. Dysentery was specially severe in the Gauhati jail, being probably aggravated by defects in the site and surroundings. The treatment of patients in extramural hospitals proved successful. In the Sylhet jail a serious outbreak of *beri-beri* occurred, and up to the 31st December there were 158 cases, with 21 deaths. The jail was vacated and the prisoners removed to camp, and in about three months' time the disease abated.

426. Amongst jails of considerable size the proportion of deaths to daily average strength was highest (62·82 per mille) at Barisal, which is probably the most unhealthy jail in the province. Its unhealthiness formed the subject of a special enquiry in 1904, when the high rate of sickness and mortality were ascribed to the defective drainage and ventilation, to bad water, and to overcrowding. Certain improvements were completed in 1904, and others were sanctioned in 1905; but a new three-storied barrack has yet to be built. The most effective method of combating dysentery, the chief cause of mortality at Barisal, appears to be the segregation of patients outside the jail walls, and arrangements are being made to establish a dysentery camp and hospital. It is interesting to note that, in Eastern Bengal jails, the beneficial effects of the prophylactic issue of quinine during the more unhealthy months of the year proved more or less successful against malarial fever; while the issue of mosquito nets to fever cases helped to keep down the disease.

Jail accommodation.

427. Closely connected with the health of the jail inmates is the question of the jail accommodation. The jails and subsidiary jails had accommodation for 7,351 prisoners of all classes, and the average prison population was 6,832. There was some overcrowding in the prisons of Assam, aggravated by sickness in the Gauhati and Sylhet jails, which prevented the transfer of prisoners. Pressure will be much relieved on the construction of the new Jorhat jail, and after the extension of the Nowgong jail, which has been sanctioned, is completed. There was some overcrowding in several of the jails in Eastern Bengal also, but not for any length of time, the congestion being relieved by transfers to other jails, and by placing the surplus prisoners in worksheds and verandahs. One hundred and eighty-six cubicles, sanctioned for the Sylhet jail, were completed and occupied. In Eastern Bengal jails there is only one cubicle and that in the female ward of the Rangpur jail. Administrative sanction to the construction of 192 cubicles at an estimated cost of Rs. 17,500 in the Rampur Boalia central jail was obtained, but the work was not commenced.

Employment of prisoners.

428. The average number of convicts available for work was 5,289·26. There was a considerable decrease in the number of convicts employed on unremunerative labour. The number employed on manufactures was 2,317·52 and that on extramural labour was 125·67.

Financial results.

429. The total drawings from the treasury amounted to Rs. 2,42,390, and the total remittances to Rs. 3,27,595, showing a cash profit of Rs. 85,204, as compared with Rs. 3,053 in the preceding year. The manufactures, on which the convicts were employed, showed very satisfactory results, and the average profit per head of those sentenced to labour rose from Rs. 18 to Rs. 21·13. As regards the individual prisons, the Assam jails exhibit a considerable improvement in manufacturing efficiency, and their financial results are generally better than those of the jails in Eastern Bengal, the Dacca central jail excepted.

Profits of manufactures.

Expenditure.

430. The total expenditure, excluding the cost of general supervision, was Rs. 5,65,973, against Rs. 5,62,994. The gross expenditure per prisoner was Rs. 79-2-2, against Rs. 81-10-5, and, owing to the larger cash earnings, the net cost was only Rs. 61-11 per head of average strength or Rs. 14 less than the preceding year. Both the gross and the net costs are, however, still above the average for all India.

Subsidiary Jails in Eastern Bengal.

431. The number admitted direct from court was 4,661, and the daily average number was 101·99.

Convicts. Under trials.

432. Five thousand and twenty-two were admitted direct from court, and the daily average was 270·90. Three prisoners escaped and 5 died.

Buildings.

433. The amount spent on subsidiary jail buildings was Rs. 4,072, *viz.*, Rs. 3,751 by the Public Works Department, and Rs. 321 by the Jail Department.

Expenditure.

434. The total expenditure on subsidiary jails, including that on petty construction and repairs, was Rs. 40,780.

Manufactory transactions.

435. The net profit on the working of the factories fell from Rs. 1,531 to Rs. 1,505, the average profit per head of those employed on manufactory works from Rs. 30·8 to Rs. 27·13.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice.

PLAINS DISTRICTS.

[*See* High Court's Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1905, Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section III.]

Judicial staff.

436. The permanent Civil Judicial staff employed in the province during the year consisted of 13 District and Sessions Judges; 2 Additional District and Sessions Judges, one of them performing similar duties also in Bengal; 1 Provincial Small Cause Court Judge, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 20 Subordinate Judges; and 141 Munsifs. Besides these, 7 Executive Officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge, and 22 the powers of a Munsif. The Subordinate Judges and Munsifs employed in the Assam Valley and Cachar were members of the Executive Service vested with judicial powers under sections 25 and 36 of the Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Assam Civil Courts Act.

In addition to the permanent staff, several temporary officers were employed during the year.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Original suits instituted.

437. The number of original suits instituted in the province was 358,646, or 6,629 more than in the previous year. The increase occurred in each class of suits; those for money and moveables, and rent and title suits showing increases of ·6, 3·5 and ·7 per cent., respectively. The total amount involved in original litigation was Rs. 3,41,90,481.

Local distribution.

438. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in all districts except Faridpur, Tippera, Mymensingh, the Assam Valley, Sylhet, and Cachar, where there was a small decrease.

Disposal of suits.

439. Adding to the number of suits instituted during the year, those which were pending at its commencement, and those which were revived or received on remand or review, the total number of suits for disposal was 420,498. Of these, 365,757 were disposed of; this number being 9,713 more than the total disposed of in the previous year. The increase, however, occurred entirely in uncontested suits, which rose from 276,909 to 296,179, the number of contested suits having decreased from 79,135 to 69,578. In Eastern Bengal the number of suits disposed of showed an increase of 11,985. In Assam there was a decrease of 2,272. The pending file was reduced from 55,624 to 54,741. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided by the several grades of Courts was much the same as in the previous year.

Results of disposals.

440. Of the total number of suits disposed of, 21·8 per cent. resulted in favour of defendants; 69·6 per cent. in favour of plaintiffs; and 8·6 per cent. were compromised.

In contested suits, which numbered 69,578, plaintiffs were successful in 83·3 per cent. of the cases and the defendants in 16·7 per cent.

Applications for retrial.

441. The proportion of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default or in which decrees were made *ex parte* was 4·4 per cent., the numbers being 11,149 and 248,015, respectively. The applications were successful in 49·8 per cent. of the cases.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

442. The total number of suits disposed of by Munsifs showed an increase of 9,377 over the figures for 1904. Over one-third of these were under the Small Cause Court procedure. Each Munsif employed throughout the year decided on the average 2,138 suits.

The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs was 66,742, or 18·9 per cent. of the total. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 21·2 and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure 14·7.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

443. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges under the ordinary procedure numbered 1,649, of which 39·4 per cent. were contested. Four thousand five hundred and ninety-one were decided in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers, 18·8 per cent. being contested.

Disposal by Small Cause Courts.

444. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 6,450 original suits, of which 1,236 were contested. Work in the Court at Munshiganj increased considerably.

Execution proceedings.

445. There were 49,953 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 261,263 such applications were made during the year. Realization was complete in 60,216 cases, and partial in 58,382. In 134,192 cases the proceedings were returned as infructuous; and 54,201 remained pending at the close of the year. The total amount realized in Courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 73,75,013. Debtors were imprisoned in 204 cases, moveable property was sold in 8,980, and immoveable in 29,166.

Miscellaneous cases.

446. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted was 32,928, of which 33,205 were disposed of, and 6,530 were left pending. Of the cases disposed of, 11,777 were withdrawn, compromised, or confessed; 11,211 were decided *ex parte* and 10,217 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 48·7 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 20 had been pending more than a year.

The number of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted and disposed of was 6,066 and 6,175, respectively. The institutions consisted mostly of applications for deposit of rent.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—APPEALS IN THE HIGH COURT.

Appeals from Subordinate Courts.

447. The number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the superior Civil Courts in Eastern Bengal and Assam, which came before the High Court and which were decided during the past year, was as follows:—

	Pending at the end of 1904.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1905
First appeals.				
From decrees	238	145	131	252
From orders	142	61	73	130
Second appeals.				
From decrees	1,811	1,110	1,281	1,640
From orders	42	110	80	72
Total ...	2,233	1,426	1,565	2,094

Of the 1,255 appeals from decrees, 533, or 42·4 per cent., were valued at less than Rs. 50.

Results of appeals.

448. Of the 131 appeals from original decrees decided, 26 were uncontested, being dismissed for default, withdrawn, or compromised, 71 were confirmed, and 34 were reversed, modified, and remanded.

Of the 330 appeals from appellate decrees of District Judges, 91 were summarily rejected, 13 were compromised, withdrawn, or dismissed for default; 161 were confirmed, and 65 were reversed, modified, or remanded. Of the 951 appeals from appellate decrees of Subordinate Judges, 264 were summarily rejected, 43 were compromised, withdrawn, or dismissed for default, 448 were affirmed, 52 reversed, 14 varied, and 130 remanded.

Of the 153 appeals from orders decided, 51 were uncontested and 102 were decided after trial. Of the latter, 77 orders of the Lower Courts were confirmed, 7 reversed, 3 varied, and 15 remanded.

II.—APPELLATE COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Appeals instituted.

449. Nine thousand nine hundred and eighty-six appeals were instituted, of which 4,233 were in rent suits, 4,116 in title suits, and 1,637 in suits for money or moveables. The number was 274 less than in 1904, and the decrease occurred in each of the classes.

The number of appeals, valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50, was 1,316 and 3,863, respectively. The total value of appeals instituted was Rs. 12,40,070, falling short of the total of 1904 by one lakh.

The number of appealable cases, decided by Subordinate Courts, was 44,199; and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers, was 22·5 per cent.

Appeals disposed of.

450. The number of appeals disposed of was 11,128, or 1,297 less than in the previous year. The decrease in the disposals by the Appellate Courts occurred in Eastern Bengal as well as in Assam. The number of appeals disposed of by District and Additional Judges was 3,706, and by Subordinate Judges 7,422.

Appeals pending.

451. There were 5,181 appeals pending at the close of the year, showing a decrease of 855 as compared with the previous year. The number of appeals pending for more than one year was reduced from 227 to 86.

Result of appeals.

452. The result of appeals against the decisions of the Lower Courts was as follows :—In 54·6 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed; in 10·1 per cent. it was modified; and in 20·1 per cent. it was reversed. The results cannot be considered favourable to the Lower Courts. Five hundred and seventeen appeals were remanded, and 1,181 were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default.

Miscellaneous appeals.

453. One thousand four hundred and thirty-four miscellaneous appeals were instituted, and 1,516 were disposed of, 233 remaining pending at the close of the year.

Receipts and charges of the Civil Courts.

454. The receipts of the Civil Courts increased from Rs. 52,96,689 to Rs. 54,08,017, while the charges fell from Rs. 21,91,964, to Rs. 20,83,692. Including the amount of Rs. 1,03,214 realized on account of duty on probates, etc., there was a profit to Government from civil litigation of Rs. 33,24,325, or Rs. 2,19,600 more than in 1904; and, exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 32,21,111. The increase in receipts is due mainly to the increase in the volume of litigation. The decrease in expenditure is accounted for by the decrease chiefly under the heads "Salaries of judicial officers" and "Contingencies and refunds."

HILL DISTRICTS AND FRONTIER TRACTS.

Civil Justice in the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

455. The number of civil suits instituted in the Courts of the hill districts and frontier tracts of the province in 1905 was 2,672, the value of the suits instituted being Rs. 1,46,507. Including suits pending from the previous year, there were 2,909 cases to be dealt with, of which 2,225 were disposed of. Fifty-five appeals against the orders of the Lower Courts were preferred to Deputy Commissioners and Magistrates, who disposed of 47, including appeals pending from the previous year. Decrees were confirmed in 31 cases, reversed in 6, and modified in 5, while 4 cases were remanded. Six appeals were preferred to Government, and the decree of the Lower Court was confirmed in 4 cases and modified in 2. There were 1,776 applications for execution of decrees, of which 1,192 were dealt with and decided. The receipts of the Civil Courts amounted to Rs. 10,811, and the charges to Rs. 26,832.

SECTION 7.—Registration.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the Registration Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905, Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IX.]

dminis-tration.

456. The Registration Department was reorganised during the year. For many years the work of registration was done to a large extent by Government officials who were appointed registering officers *ex-officio*, in addition to their ordinary duties, and, where this was not possible, retired native officers and other persons of respectability were sought out and appointed Sub-Registrars at or near their own homes in return for a moderate payment of fees. With the expansion of registration operations it was found necessary to replace the *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars at headquarter stations by Special Sub-Registrars, but in theory the principle was that Rural Sub-Registrars should be respectable residents of the places where their offices were, who performed the work of registration in their leisure hours in return for a certain percentage of the

fees. In practice, however, it was found impossible to obtain a sufficient supply of officers of the class mentioned above, and a system grew up of appointing, as "special apprentices," a certain number of young men who learnt the work as unpaid apprentices in the hope of obtaining later on appointments as "Rural Sub-Registrars." This system of recruitment was found, with the rapid growth of the Department, to be unsatisfactory and attended with great administrative inconvenience, which resulted from the fact that the emoluments of officers were localised, so that their transfer to other offices was difficult. For these main reasons, the following reforms were sanctioned by His Majesty's Secretary of State in Despatch No. 56 Revenue, dated the 31st March 1905 :—

(i) That Special Sub-Registrars should be graded in four grades, *viz.*, Rs. 175, Rs. 200, Rs. 225, and Rs. 250, on fixed salaries personal to them, and that their services should count for pension as before.

(ii) That Rural Sub-Registrars shculd be graded in four grades, *viz.*, Rs. 75, Rs. 100, Rs. 125, and Rs. 150, on fixed salaries personal to them, and that their services should be made pensionable, but the service rendered by them prior to the introduction of the scheme should not count for pension.

(iii) That there should be a reserve for casualties and for leave vacancies at 4 and 8 per cent., respectively, of the cadre. That the pay of officers in these reserve grades should be Rs. 20 and Rs. 50, respectively.

(iv) That the clerks and muharrirs of rural offices should be paid by Government, and that their salaries should be raised, and either their services should be made pensionable or a provident fund should be established for their benefit.

These reforms were introduced in the districts of the old Province of Bengal from the 1st October 1905, and it is proposed to bring the Surma Valley Sub-Registrars under the same system.

Registration offices.

457. The total number of offices open at the end of the year 1905 was 216,185 in the districts of Eastern Bengal and 31 in the districts of Assam. The Government Sub-Registry office at Hailakandi was converted into a rural office during the year, and a new office was opened at Baniachang in Sylhet.

Documents registered.

458. The total number of registrations increased from 729,393 to 735,148, or by ·78 per cent. Of these, 639,872 related to transactions affecting immoveable property, 94,180 were concerned with moveable property, and 1,091 were wills. Of the deeds relating to moveable and immoveable property, 610,794 were compulsory registrations, and 29,068 were optional. There was a large increase in the number of the former and an equally large decrease in the number of the latter kind of registrations. This was due to the operation of the provision of Act VI of 1904 under which, where the Transfer of Property Act is in force, registration of mortgages for less than Rs. 100 is compulsory.

Receipts and expenditure.

459. The total receipts of the Department increased from Rs. 7,34,792 to Rs. 7,46,891 or by 1·6 per cent. The total expenditure, on the other hand, fell from Rs. 4,25,518 to Rs. 4,23,852.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act Assam, East Bengal

460. In the 10 offices in Sylhet, 422 marriages, 60 *talaq*, and 45 *khola* divorces were registered. The total receipts were Rs. 594. In Cachar no ceremony was registered during the year.

461. The following table shows the principal features of the working of Act I (B.C.) of 1876 in the Eastern Bengal districts during the last two years :—

Year.	Number of districts in which Act I (B.C.) of 1876 was in force.	Number of offices opened at the close of the year.	Number of marriages registered.	Number of *talaq* divorces registered.	Number of *khola* divorces registered.	Total number of ceremonies registered.
1	2	3	4	5		7
1904-1905	14	153	18,131	7,592	2,582	28,604
1905-1906	14	154	21,480	8,726	2,939	33,145

Two new offices were opened in Tippera, and one was closed in Malda. Of the 154 offices, there was no work in four offices, and the average number of registrations in each office was 220. With the increase in the number of registrations, the income of the Kazi Registrars also increased. Their total receipts, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 56,141, or 19 per cent. more than in the previous year.

PROTECTION.

Registrations under Act III of 1872.

462. There were 10 marriages registered under the Act. The ages of bridegrooms ranged from 19 to 42, and those of brides from 15 to 25 years. Two widows, aged 15 and 20, were remarried.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

463. Two new companies were registered during the year. These were the Assam Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, of Dibrugarh, and the Pabna Shilpa Sanjibani Company, Limited. Twelve companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 5,60,000 and a paid up-capital of Rs. 89,295 were working at the close of the year. The total amount of fees realized was Rs. 275. No provident or benefit societies were formed.

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports on the Working of Municipalities in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1905-1906.]

Number of municipalities.

464. No new municipalities were created during 1905-1906, but the constitution of a Union at Hailakandi was notified before the close of the year, to take effect from the 1st April 1906. This resolution, therefore, reviews the statistics of 49 municipalities.

By-laws.

465. General by-laws were sanctioned for the Nawabganj and Barpeta Municipalities, and model rules of business were framed by the Chandpur Municipality. By-laws under the Hackney Carriage Act were sanctioned for the Mymensingh and Gauhati Municipalities. By-law 17 and clause 8 of by-law 1 of the Silchar Municipality were rescinded as being *ultra vires*. Some additions were made to the by-laws of the Tezpur Municipality.

Part IX of Act III (B.C.) of 1884 was extended to the Brahmanbaria Municipality, and the whole of the Gauhati Municipality was brought under the operation of Part VI. The provisions of sections 224 to 244, 249 to 253, 261 to 273, and 275 to 278 of the Act were extended to Cox's Bazar Municipality.

Elections.

466. General elections of Commissioners were held in 23 cases. The election of the Commissioners of ward No. III of the English Bazar Municipality was declared void, and a fresh election was ordered. At Sylhet allegations of corrupt practices were made, but the successful candidates withdrew voluntarily before the intervention of the Deputy Commissioner became necessary. The rate-payers of Jalpaiguri were granted the privilege of election in 1904, and it was exercised, with successful results, for the first time during the year. By-elections were also held in several municipalities to fill vacancies. One of the most gratifying features of the recent elections was the success of Muhammadan candidates—a fact which indicates a growing interest in civil administration on the part of the Muhammadan community.

Meetings.

467. The number of meetings held was 718. Of these 68 had to be adjourned. Sherpur headed the list with 35, and Jhalokati and Nawabganj came next with 25 each. In Assam, Gauhati came first, with 18 meetings. Eleven towns, chiefly in Assam, failed to hold the regulation number of meetings of twelve in the year.

Number of rate-payers. Proportion of rate-payers to population.

468. The total number of rate-payers was 105,003, the percentage to municipal population being 16·8. The percentage was highest at Nawabganj (29·4) and lowest in Narainganj (9·6). The low ratio in the latter municipality is attributable to the presence of a large number of day-labourers working in the jute and other factories, municipal taxes being paid by employers. The divisional percentage was highest in Rajshahi (19·8) and lowest in Dacca (14·6) as was the case last year. It fell below the provincial average in 27 cases, 15 of which occurred in municipalities in the Dacca Division.

Assessment and taxation.

469. A rate on holdings was in force in 13 municipalities, and in certain wards of Madaripur; the alternative tax on persons was levied in the others. Noakhali, which had hitherto levied a rate on persons, introduced the rate on holdings from 1st April 1906. In Rangpur, in which the enforcement of a rate on holdings was sanctioned last year, no action was taken, owing to the regrettable failure of the Municipal Commissioners to prepare a valuation list. In Nowgong, the substitution of a rate on holdings for the tax on persons resulted in an increase of Rs. 629. The Municipality of Rampur Boalia has recently applied to Government for the services of a trained officer to revise its valuation list, with a view to the adoption of a tax on holdings. The rate on holdings was levied at the maximum rates in Dacca (10 per cent.), and in Chittagong, Gauhati, and Shillong (7½ per cent.). Government buildings are invariably assessed at the maximum rate. Latrine fees are levied in 24 towns, and a water-rate in Mymensingh, Gauhati, and Shillong. No water-rate is levied in Dacca, although it is supplied with filtered water, but a

fee levied on house connections yielded an income of Rs. 9,612. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Re. 1-5-10, showing an increase of 8 pies per head, compared with the previous year. Shillong was the town most heavily taxed, the average payment per head being Rs. 3-4-7. The lowest point was touched at Bazitpur, where each person paid only 6 annas 4 pies per head. In four other towns also the incidence was less than 8 annas per head.

Revision of assessment.

470. Assessments were revised generally or partially in the majority of the municipalities. The revision resulted in an increase of income everywhere except at Rangpur. There the decrease was due to the fact that some rate-payers left the town. The financial position of the Jamalpur Municipality, which was on the verge of bankruptcy, has been much improved by a revision of the assessment.

New imposts.

471. No new imposts were levied in any of the municipalities except in Old Malda, where a fee on the registration of carts was imposed.

Demand, collections, and balances.

472. The current demand amounted to Rs. 8,08,355, or Rs. 30,482 in excess of that of the previous year. The increase was shared by all the Divisions except Rajshahi. It was especially marked in the Chittagong Division, where it rose from Rs. 68,717 to Rs. 84,801. Including arrears, the demand increased from Rs. 8,04,551 to Rs. 8,35,206, of which Rs. 7,83,589, or 93 7 per cent., was collected during the year. The percentage of total collections on the current demand fell from 97·7 to 96·9, which was due to heavy remissions in Dibrugarh, Gauhati, Sylhet, Dacca, and Rangpur. No explanation of the large remissions in Dacca and Rangpur has been given. In Dibrugarh remissions were granted owing to a fall in rents, after the assessment has been completed, due to the transfer of business to Tinsukia. In Gauhati the outstandings claimed from the Assam-Bengal Railway were remitted on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who acted as arbitrator between the Municipality and the Railway Company. The outstanding balances increased from Rs. 27,476 to Rs. 32,169, of which the Rajshahi Division alone contributed 30 per cent. Five municipalities collected more than 100 per cent. of their current demands, while in 12 towns the collection was 99 per cent. In seven municipalities the outstanding balance was nominal.

Financial position of municipalities. Closing balances.

473. The total funds available for expenditure, including the opening balance (Rs. 2,48,874), amounted to Rs. 15,99,511, against Rs. 15,02,759 in the previous year. The total expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 13,57,339, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 2,42,172, or Rs. 6,902 less than in 1904-1905. Many municipalities in the Dacca Division closed the year with large balances. This was due, in some cases, to non-payment of outstanding bills, and also to the fact that funds provided for work were not spent during the year. In more than one case the estimates of receipts were exceeded.

Income.

474. The total income of the municipalities, excluding opening balances, was Rs. 13,50,637, or Rs. 95,961 more than in 1904-1905. Excluding Provincial and Local grants, private contributions, and loans from Government, the increase for the year amounted to Rs. 81,998. A considerable portion of this increase, *viz.*, Rs. 51,726, was due to two special causes. The rest occurred chiefly under (1) taxes on holdings and persons, (2) conservancy, (3) tolls on roads and ferries, (4) revenue derived from municipal property, etc.

The following statement shows the percentage of receipts under the principal sources of income of municipalities, distributed according to Divisions :—

—	Dacca.	Rajshahi.	Chittagong.	Assam Valley Districts.	Surma Valley and Hill Districts.
1. Municipal rates and taxes	81·5	74·4	75·1	42·5	68·9
2. Realizations under special Acts	1·8	3·2	2·2	8·3	2·8
3. Revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation.	7·0	4·9	14·6	23·4	8·6
4. Grants from Provincial and Local revenues ...	3·1	8·2	4·9	24·1	18·5
5. Private contributions	2·5	7·7	2·2	0·2	...

The large percentage which the grants from Provincial and Local revenues bear to total income in the two Divisions of Assam is due to the fact that the majority of the municipalities receive liberal subsidies from Provincial revenues in consideration of the fact that Government is the ground landlord. The percentage of receipts from private contributions in the Rajshahi Division is noticeable.

Expenditure.

475. The aggregate expenditure amounted to Rs. 13,57,339, or an increase of Rs. 1,03,654. The ordinary expenditure (excluding loans, advances and the like) rose from Rs. 11,16,637 to Rs. 11,54,389. The main heads under which this increase occurred were chiefly "Conservancy" (Rs. 23,090), "Markets and slaughter houses" (Rs. 16,949), "Drainage" (Rs. 5,303), "Water-supply" (Rs. 3,019), "Office and collection establishment" (Rs. 4,818), and cost of work done for private individuals (Rs. 6,674). Expenditure on public works and on hospitals and dispensaries showed, on the other hand, a decline of Rs. 14,982 and Rs. 14,472, respectively.

Office and collection establishment.

476. Of the increased expenditure of Rs. 4,818 on office and collection establishment, Dacca was responsible for two-thirds, owing to the appointment of a Secretary and Engineer. Judging from the remarks of the Magistrate, the appointment has not, so far, been fully justified.

Water-supply

477. The expenditure on water-supply, Rs. 77,151, showed a small increase of over Rs. 3,000, although capital outlay declined by Rs. 3,474. Dacca was mainly responsible for the increase of maintenance charges. The water-supply was originally estimated to provide 10,000 people with 10 gallons per head, and it is now supplying 60,000 people with 5 gallons per head daily. This involved a much larger expenditure on coal: the erection of a subsidiary reservoir with pipe connections for the supply of filtered water to Government House, and the purchase of a steam pump and a boiler for the purpose of pumping the river water directly into the settling tanks, added considerably to the normal expenditure. Even with these improvements, the water-supply is wholly inadequate and the Superintending Engineer has been instructed to submit a scheme for remodelling and improving the water-works. Some improvements to the filter beds of the Mymensingh water-works were carried out on the recommendations of the Sanitary Engineer, Bengal, and the Sanitary Commissioner, but the lack of funds prevented the municipality from carrying out all the recommendations. Shillong and Gauhati are the only other towns with a regular installation of water-works. Those at Gauhati were found to be unsuitable, and Government has undertaken to supply new filter beds. These have neared completion. The Municipalities of Faridpur and Patuakhali are exceptional, in that the Commissioners have supplied the towns with water filters. In Faridpur the filter supplies 10,000 gallons of excellent water daily; a second filter on the same lines was constructed during the year.

A scheme for the supply of filtered water to the town of Narainganj at a cost of Rs. 1,50,000 has been recently sanctioned by Government, and a loan for that amount has been promised. Detailed plans and estimates are under preparation.

The Barisal water-works scheme has been hanging fire for some time. The original estimate, Rs. 1,82,000, was sanctioned by Government some time back, and it is reported that almost the whole of the money has been raised locally. The final estimates show, however, an excess expenditure of Rs. 25,000, and the Chief Engineer has now under consideration a proposal to change the site of the in-take with a view to reducing the cost to the sanctioned estimate. The Municipal Commissioners of Rampur Boalia have also for some time been considering two alternative schemes for supplying the town with good water from galleried wells, but both have been rejected on the score of expense.

Public Works.

478. The outlay on public works was Rs. 14,982 less than in 1904-1905. The expenditure on "Buildings" fell from Rs. 32,957 to Rs. 11,342. In the Dacca Division alone there was a decrease under this head of Rs. 22,471, for which the towns of Mymensingh, Dacca and Narainganj were mainly responsible. In Dacca and Mymensingh large sums were expended in 1904-1905 on the municipal office building and the new town hall respectively. Expenditure on roads in the Dacca Division also fell off. The construction of additional metalled roads is desirable in almost all towns in Eastern Bengal, but much useful work was accomplished in maintaining the existing communications.

Conservancy.

479. The increase (Rs. 23,090) of expenditure under "Conservancy" is noteworthy: it was common to all Divisions, but most marked in the Chittagong and Assam Valley Divisions. Of the additional expenditure of Rs. 6,002 in the Chittagong Division, Chandpur contributed Rs. 2,095, due chiefly to the purchase of additional bullocks

PROTECTION.

and conservancy carts. The expenditure in Dibrugarh showed an increase of Rs. 4,517. Two-thirds of this amount was usefully spent in filling up borrow pits. Generally speaking, the increased expenditure of municipalities was incurred on the construction of latrines, the acquisition of lands for trenching ground, and the importation of sweepers.

The latrine system was extended to the Brahmanbaria Municipality and to the south section of Chandpur. In Dacca the sewage filter at Nayasarak is said to have worked satisfactorily, but this provides for only a small portion of the town. A septic tank was built three years ago, but no experiments have been made with it owing to the scarcity of the water-supply. Two of the pressing needs of the town of Dacca are the improvement of the drainage and the conservancy arrangements. Detailed plans are now being elaborated for the drainage scheme. The Sanitary Commissioner has been permitted to visit Cawnpore and Howrah, with a view to ascertaining the practice in those towns.

Medical.

480. The total expenditure under "Medical" was Rs. 14,472 less than in the year preceding. The decrease was shared by all the Divisions except Chittagong and the Assam Valley, and was largest in the Dacca Division, where it amounted to Rs. 8,381. In the Dacca Municipality, where the expenditure fell short by nearly Rs. 4,000, the decrease is attributed to the withdrawal of Rs. 1,00,500 from the Mitford Hospital Invested Fund for the purpose of lending one lakh to a Court of Wards, estate in Bakarganj, which is said to have paid no interest on the loan. In Mymensingh there was a decrease of Rs. 3,223, but this was due to the special outlay in 1904-1905 on buildings.

A class for training native *dhais* was opened in Bogra, but it proved unsuccessful.

Public instruction.

481. Expenditure on education increased by Rs. 1,809, chiefly in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. The percentage of total expenditure spent on education by the municipalities in Eastern Bengal and Assam was 3·9. The percentage was highest in the Chittagong and lowest in the Dacca Division, and varied from 1·1 in Faridpur to 15·3 in Chittagong.

Other municipal improvements.

482. Among other improvements, the following may be noted:—

In Dacca the Victoria Park was greatly improved, and the Northbrook Hall was repaired. The streets of Dacca were watered with unfiltered water, and a bustee at Patuatoli was improved at a cost of Rs. 1,762. In Narainganj experiments were made with incandescent lamps, and as a result it has been decided to introduce the sunlight lamp for lighting the streets. The sanitation of Chandpur was improved by the construction of drains and the filling up of ditches. In Rampur Boalia some masonry drains were built, and insanitary ditches filled up. Rangpur constructed two burning ghats, while Jalpaiguri spent a considerable sum in extending its drains. In Sirajganj and English Bazar masonry wells were sunk. In Silchar an important improvement was effected by the reclamation of Tarapur, and a swamp in cantonments was converted into ornamental public grounds. In Shillong a handsome market was erected, and in Gauhati considerable progress was made in the reconstruction of the market.

Loans. Financial position of indebted municipalities.

483. Twelve municipalities had outstanding loans at the close of the year, and two fresh loans to the amount of Rs. 22,270 were taken during the year. Gauhati obtained a loan of Rs. 12,270 for the reconstruction of the Fansi Bazar, which had been destroyed by fire in 1903, and Rs. 10,000 was lent to the Shillong Station for the construction of a market. The net outstanding loan balance amounted to Rs. 1,48,790, more than half of which represents the indebtedness of the Dacca Municipality. The financial position of all the municipalities to whom loans have been granted is satisfactory.

Audit and embezzlements.

484. The accounts of the municipalities in Eastern Bengal districts were audited by the Examiner of Local Accounts, while in Assam they were audited in the office of the Accountant General. The introduction of a systematic local audit of the municipal accounts in Assam is under the consideration of Government. No cases of embezzlement were reported.

General.

485. On the whole, the year was one of some progress. In a few cases, specially in the Mymensingh district, there was a disposition to introduce politics. Personal rivalries were also a source of weakness in administration in some towns, but with the exception of Rangpur, and also of Pabna, where the suggestions of the Sanitary Commissioner were not carried out until the application of section 65 of the Municipal Act was threatened, Municipal Commissioners may be said to have generally recognised their responsibilities.

SECTION 9.—District and Local Boards.

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Reports of the Working of District and Local Boards in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1905-1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVIII.]

Constitution of District Boards.

486. There are in the province two systems of rural Local Self-Government. In the transferred districts where Act III (B.C.) of 1885 is in force, 14 District Boards, 32 Subdivisional Local Boards and 9 Union Committees have been constituted. In Assam, where the Act is not in force, 19 Subdivisional Local Boards have been created under executive orders. The Assam Boards are in no sense comparable with the Subdivisional Boards of the transferred districts. Although enjoying no legal constitution, they are generally similar in their functions and responsibilities to the District Boards of Eastern Bengal. The constitution of the District Boards remained unchanged. The number of meetings held was 214, the same as in the previous year. The number of meetings which proved abortive for want of a quorum rose from 12 to 21, and of these the Faridpur and Rajshahi Boards were alone responsible for 13. These two Boards held 31 meetings, and it is probable that the large number of abortive meetings was due to the frequency with which meetings were called. The average attendance of members was 11, against an average total membership of 20.

Constitution of Assam Local Boards.

487. The total membership was 363, and of these, 72 were *ex-officio* members 159 were nominated and 132 elected. One hundred and thirty meetings were held and 9 proved abortive for want of a quorum. In this respect the results shown in Barpeta, where four meetings failed, were highly unsatisfactory.

Constitution of Eastern Bengal Local Boards.

488. The 32 Subdivisional Boards of the province were represented by 363 members, of whom 22 were *ex-officio* members, 208 were nominated and 133 elected. Four hundred and fourteen meetings were held, of which 70 proved abortive. The attendance of non-official members was poor, only 4·3 attending, against an average non-official membership of 9·5.

Muhammadan representation.

489. In Eastern Bengal, where the Muhammadan community numbers two-thirds of the total population, the share enjoyed in Local Self-Government, as indicated by the representation on District and Local Boards, was inadequate; out of a total membership of 646, only 169, or 26·16 per cent., were Muhammadans. Boards have since in most cases been reconstituted and a fairer, but still inadequate, representation has been secured. Out of the total membership of 646, 223, or 34·52 per cent., are now Muhammadans. The result of the recent elections is, however, a welcome indication that the Muhammadan community is becoming alive to its responsibilities, and is ready to take its proper share in the work of Local Self-Government.

Union Committees.

490. Of the nine Union Committees, eight are in Chittagong, the ninth being in Shazadpur in the district of Pabna. On these bodies Muhammadans are fairly well represented. Two Unions (Lakhmipur and Feni in the Noakhali district) levied local taxation under section 118 of the Act. The amounts realised were inconsiderable, but the example is one to be followed.

The total income of the nine Unions was Rs. 4,260 and the expenditure Rs. 3,475. With such insignificant amounts at their disposal, no very striking results can be expected.

Elections.

491. General elections were held in the districts of Faridpur, Tippera, Noakhali, Pabna, and Rajshahi and by-elections in the districts of Dacca and Bakarganj. The elections were unsuccessful in two thanas in Faridpur and Bakarganj and in four thanas in Pabna.

In Assam, in view of the reconstitution of Local Boards, general elections were held under revised rules which ensure the representation of the planting, mercantile, and rural communities. The elections were generally successful, and excited considerable interest, especially in rural areas.

INCOME.

492. The income of the Boards from all sources was Rs. 46,62,279, an increase of Rs. 7,10,426 as compared with the previous year. Excluding the receipts under "Debts," it amounts to Rs. 44,92,172, of which no less than Rs. 13,95,046 was contributed by Government. It is interesting to note that, of the income of the Boards of the province, roughly 48 per cent. was raised by local taxation, 7 per cent. was received from pounds, 8 per cent. from ferries, 6 per cent. from miscellaneous receipts, while 31 per cent. was contributed by Government. The variations in income, except under the heads "Education," "Civil Works," "Contributions," were not very important.

493. The increase of Rs. 1,18,156 in the education receipts was mainly due to the inclusion under this head in the Rajshahi returns of the Imperial grants made for the development of primary education.

Education.

494. Civil Works receipts rose by Rs. 2,12,367. To this, a general expansion in ferry receipts contributed, but the bulk of the increase was due to the inclusion, in the Rajshahi and Chittagong returns, of the Imperial grants made for the improvement of communications.

Civil Works.

Contributions.

495. Contributions from Provincial to Local increased by Rs. 4,33,057. This roughly represents (*a*) the education grants (Rs. 1,62,000) made to the District Boards of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, (*b*) the Imperial grants (Rs. 1,59,000) for the improvement of communications made to the District Boards of the Dacca Division, (*c*) similar grants made to the Assam Boards (Rs. 1,33,000), and (*d*) Education grants made to the Assam Boards (Rs. 56,100). As a set-off, the large non-recurring grants, made to the Assam Boards in 1904-1905 for the construction of middle and upper primary school buildings, were a not continued.

EXPENDITURE.

496. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 41,48,438, or Rs. 2,00,474 more than in 1904-1905. Noticeable variations occurred under the heads "Civil Works" and "Education."

Civil Works.

497. Under "Civil Works" expenditure increased by Rs. 2,39,008. The Assam Local Boards and the District Boards of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions utilized the Imperial grants intended primarily for the improvement of communications.

Education.

498. The total expenditure on education increased from Rs. 10,25,360 to Rs. 10,94,698. The expenditure of District Boards expanded very slighly, but Assam Boards were able to utilize a large portion of the Imperial grants made for the development of Primary Education. The Eastern Bengal Boards received their grants too late in the year to be spent.

The most striking feature in the returns is the difference in the distribution of education expe diture in the two portions of the province. In Eastern Bengal 35 per cent. of the total expenditure was spent on Lower Primary Education, while in Assam 65 per cent. of the total expenditure was devoted to that object. But with the utilization of the Imperial grants this difference will disappear. Another broad difference lies in the fact that in Assam the mass of Lower Primary schools are under the control of Boards, while in Eastern Bengal these schools are under private, and probably less effective, control.

The number of Lower Primary schools in Eastern Bengal, maintained and aided, decreased from 11,945 to 11,661. For the decrease a variety of causes has been assigned—the prevailing scarcity, the prevalence of cholera, the abolition of scholarship examinations, and the closing of inefficient schools owing to the higher standard of efficiency now demanded in the teaching staff. In Assam, 559 new schools were opened,—309 in the Assam and 250 in the Surma Valley.

Inspection charges in Eastern Bengal amount to Rs. 1,40,098. In Assam the cost of the inspecting staff is met from Provincial revenues, and the Board's expenditure on this account is insignificant.

Technical education received insufficient attention from the Boards. There are technical schools at Mymensingh, Rangpur, Pabna, a Sericultural school at Rampur Boalia, and an Artizan school at Comilla, and they appear to be doing well. But there is a singular absence of real progress in this direction, and some portion of the funds, now used to subsidize High and Middle schools, might profitably be diverted to the encouragement of Technical and Industrial Education.

Medical.

499 The total expenditure under "Medical" fell from Rs. 2,79,813 to Rs. 2,73,538. The outlay on hospitals and dispensaries decreased by Rs. 15,263 and on sanitation and vaccination by Rs. 7,809.

Some progress was made in the extension of medical relief. The number of dispensaries maintained by the Boards was 136, and the number aided 162. In the previous year 117 dispensaries were maintained. Nine new dispensaries were opened, one was closed, and eleven in the Noakhali district were transferred from the aided to the maintained list. The floating dispensary maintained by the Faridpur Board proved a failure. A further trial will be made with a competent hospital assistant.

A number of Boards (Mymensingh, Bogra, Tippera, Gauhati, Barpeta, Tezpur, Mangaldai, Dibrugarh, North Lakhimpur, Habiganj, Sunamganj, and Karimganj)

employed itinerant doctors to provide medical relief in localities affected by cholera. Their services, owing to insufficient supervision, are reported to have been of little avail in Mymensingh, but elsewhere the system proved successful.

Sanitation.

500. The accounts show that the expenditure for sanitary purposes fell from Rs. 13,666 to Rs. 5,056. But these figures do not include expenditure incurred on the improvement of water-supply or drainage and, in some cases, on the sanitation of fairs.

An interesting feature of the year's working was the inauguration of a project to improve the sanitation of Manikganj on the lines of the Patna scheme. Similar projects were started by the Bakarganj Sadr and Bhola Local Boards for the improvement of the sanitation of villages near headquarters. In the Jorhat subdivision, the Local Board undertook the systematic improvement of the sanitation of a large village near the town. The problem of village sanitation is a difficult one, and results have hitherto been insignificant. It is not indeed to be expected that the Boards can accomplish much without a strong supervising staff and without a settled programme, but a beginning has been made, and the results of the experiments made will be watched with interest.

Public Works.

501. Out of the total amount (Rs. 31,76,906) available for expenditure, only Rs. 23,25,652 was spent. This heavy lapse was in part due to the inability of some Boards to utilize profitably the additional grants, aggregating Rs. 5,05,000, placed at their disposal during the year, but, even allowing for this, the unspent balance was excessive.

The substantial expenditure on the construction of feeder roads was satisfactory.

Water-supply and water works.

502. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,11,181, of which Rs. 86,166 was spent on original works and Rs. 25,015 on repairs. The expenditure incurred by the District Boards of the Rajshahi Division and by the District Boards of the Chittagong Division, with the exception of the Noakhali Board, was insignificant. Local Boards in Assam, with the exception of the Silchar, Goalpara, Mangaldai, and Dibrugarh Boards, did something to fulfil their obligations in this respect, but the outlay on the improvement of the village water-supply was nearly everywhere inadequate. There is almost unlimited room for improvement in this direction, and the Boards are not in all cases alive to their responsibilities.

Drainage.

503. The amount (Rs. 9,430) spent on drainage works was inconsiderable, and no work of any importance was undertaken during the year.

Veterinary.

504. Veterinary charges increased from Rs. 13,416 to Rs. 14,071, the expenditure being incurred on the maintenance of veterinary dispensaries, on the pay of veterinary officers, and on veterinary scholarships. Nothing in this direction was done by the Surma Valley Local Boards, and in the Assam Valley the expenditure of Rs. 2,662 represented the pay of a Veterinary Surgeon jointly employed by the three Boards of the Sibsagar district. The Eastern Bengal Boards spent Rs. 11,381. Scholarships at Belgachi were provided by all the Boards of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions and by the District Board of Malda. Veterinary officers were employed by the District Boards of Mymensingh, Bakarganj, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Bogra, Pabna, Tippera, Noakhali, and Chittagong.

Development of local industries.

505. Very little has been done by Boards to develop local industries. Weaving classes were held under the auspices of the Mymensingh, Malda, and Noakhali Boards. The Noakhali class was unsuccessful, but the other two classes are reported to be doing well. The District Board of Tippera maintained an Artizan Department attached to the Elliott Artizan School. An Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition was held at Rangpur under the supervision of the District Board at a total cost of Rs. 1,495. This is a very disappointing record of progress, and indicates a regrettable apathy on the part of Boards towards the development of the industries of the country.

Closing balances.

506. The aggregate closing balances of Boards increased from Rs. 12,29,014 to Rs. 17,42,803. An Education grant of Rs. 2,57,000, made towards the close of the year to District Boards, could not be utilized, and, as already noticed, the Imperial grants for the improvement of communications in many cases remained unspent.

Loans.

507. The District Board of Dinapur received Rs. 23,000 as a loan from Government for the construction of bridges. No other loans were received during the year. The only two Boards in the province with outstanding loans are those of Rangpur (Rs. 68,538) and Dinajpur (Rs. 1,03,149).

SECTION 10.—Military and Volunteering.

Volunteer Corps.

508. The following Volunteer Corps were in existence in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year 1905-1906:—

Surma Valley Light Horse, Assam Valley Light Horse, Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles, Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles, Shillong Volunteer Rifle Corps, and detachments of Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles, and Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteers.

The total number of volunteers was: officers 113, rank and file 1,419, and reservists 169. Of these, 89 officers, 712 rank and file, and 121 reservists belonged to Mounted Corps, and 24 officers, 707 rank and file, and 48 reservists belonged to Infantry Corps.

The Eastern Bengal Volunteer Rifles had a Mounted Troop of 43 efficients, and the Assam-Bengal Railway Volunteer Rifles a mounted section.

Commands.

509. The Assam Brigade was commanded by Colonel H. N. McRae, C.B., A.-D.-C., until the 17th of November 1905. Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Whistler, commanding 16th Rajputs, the next senior officer in the Brigade, commanded from that date up to the 2nd of January 1906. Colonel E. H. Molesworth assumed command on the 3rd January 1906.

Movement of troops.

510. The Headquarter wing, 3rd Brahmans, relieved the wing, 8th Rajputs, at Dibrugarh in November 1905.

Medical.

511. The redistribution of medical appointments made in I. A. O. No. 492, dated the 11th of August 1905, took effect from the 1st of October 1905, and one Principal Medical Officer was appointed in charge of the Presidency and Assam Brigades.

Colonel H. K. McKay, C.B., C.I.E., I.M.S., was the Principal Medical Officer during the year.

MARINE.

SECTION 11.—The Port of Chittagong.

Financial.

512. The receipts of the Port Fund proper amounted to Rs. 1,32,283, showing an increase of Rs. 3,331. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,57,480, against Rs. 78,975 in the previous year.

Shipping.

513. Three hundred and thirty-one vessels entered the port, or 8 less than in 1904-1905, but, on the other hand, the aggregate tonnage increased from 307,207 to 313,735 tons—a fact which shows that larger vessels visited the port. The number of vessels tering from foreign ports fell off, owing to the local paddy crop being very unfavourable.

Trade.

514. The principal articles of export were grain, jute, and tea, and of import, salt, mineral and other kinds of oil. There was a considerable falling off in the grain exports, due to the failure of the local rice crop. But tea and jute showed a satisfactory increase. It is believed that this increase was due to the recognition of Chittagong as the nearest and most convenient port for Eastern Bengal and Assam, and that, on completion of the measures in hand for improving the facilities of the port, it is sure to capture a much larger proportion of the trade of the province. Under imports both mineral oils and salt showed a decrease, the decrease in the case of the mineral oils being due to the raising of the prices of Burma oil by a combination of the two rival importing companies, and, in the case of salt, to (i) a large stock in the *golas* in the beginning of the year, and (ii) to the political agitation consequent on the formation of the new province. A direct import trade from the United Kingdom has not yet developed, owing to the want of better facilities in the port which are in progress.

Port appliances.

515. The appliances of the port and light-houses were kept in good order. The steamtug *Gekko* was utilized for towing three vessels in and two out; she was also usefully employed on other port duties, such as buoy-mooring work and inspection of light-houses.

The improvement of the port by revetting the river bank, increasing the jetty accommodation, and the purchase of a dredger was in progress. A grant of Rs. 2,76,242 for the revetment was sanctioned by the Government of India. A dredger for the port, at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,00,548, sanctioned by the Government of India, is under construction in Scotland.

PROTECTION.

With a view to improve the lighting of the port and its approaches, a light vessel named "*Sarsuti*" has been obtained from the Government of Bengal and will be placed at the South Patches shoal as soon as fully equipped. Two leading lights for the Chittagong river to facilitate night navigation are on their way out from England.

Pilotage fund.

516. The receipts of the Pilotage Fund amounted to Rs. 23,188, and the disbursements to Rs. 14,504. One hundred and thirty-one vessels were piloted in and 131 vessels out. There were no accidents during the year.

General health.

517. The general health of the shipping in port was good. Twenty-two seamen were admitted into the seamen's hospital, of whom thirteen were discharged cured, six relieved, two discharged otherwise, or went away from the hospital without notice, and one died. There were no cases of scurvy or other diseases resulting from bad or insufficient food on shipboard during the year.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

SECTION 1.—Agriculture and Horticulture.

[*See* Report of the Agricultural Branch of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for the period of 15 months, from 1st April 1905 to 30th June 1906.]

General.

518. The year was devoted by the Department to a great extent to organisation and preparation, and the memorandum recorded by Sir Bampfylde Fuller of the results of a conference held by him in Dacca on February 16th, 1906, which provides for the establishment of experimental stations at Dacca, Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Jorhat, for the entertainment of an expert staff at Dacca, for the systematic demonstration to the public of improvements which have been shown by actual experiments to be suitable to a locality, for the distribution of seed and other similar matters, gives an indication of the lines upon which the work of the Department will probably expand in the near future. Some advance has already been made, with the approval of the Government of India, to carry out the proposals set forth in the memorandum, and a separate Director of Agriculture will shortly be appointed to superintend the increasing work of the Department.

Scientific experiments. Cotton cultivation.

519. Caravonica cotton, the seed of which was supplied by the Inspector General of Agriculture in India in April 1904 and distributed to a large number of persons in Assam, has shown better results than in the year 1904-1905. Though in certain places the experiments with it were a failure, yet it has been found that the plant can stand the humid climate of Assam, and it is likely to be successful as a field crop. A fresh distribution of Caravonica cotton seed obtained from last year's plants, including 5 pounds of seed supplied by the Inspector General of Agriculture, was made to farms and persons interested in cotton cultivation in different parts of the province.

Different varieties of foreign and indigenous cotton, distributed by the Bengal Agricultural Department to the members of the Agricultural Association, Government wards' and private estates in Eastern Bengal, did not succeed in any place except in Chittagong, where the American variety known as "King's improved" and "Dharwar" gave a fair yield.

Jute demonstration.

520. With a view to demonstrate to the Assamese and other raiyats the profitable nature of the jute crop as well as the proper method of cultivating the plant and preparing the fibre, and by this means to extend its cultivation in the Assam Valley, arrangements were made in the beginning of the last cold weather to provide expert Bengali jute cultivators to certain selected persons at Badlipar, Jorhat Sibsagar, and Dibrugarh, who evinced an interest in the matter. Jute seed was obtained from Sirajganj through Messrs. Macdonald & Co., and supplied to them at Government expense. The experiment was fairly successful.

A number of private individuals are reported to have cultivated jute as an experimental crop in the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts. But the experiment turned out a failure in every case, owing, it is reported, to the prevalence of unfavourable weather.

Experiments in the cultivation of jute were carried out in Eastern Bengal on the lines indicated by the Inspector General of Agriculture, and the results have been summarised in the Report of the Agricultural Department, Bengal, for the period of 15 months, from the 1st April 1905 to 30th June 1906.

Wheat experiments.

521. Some of the wheat experiments, made in 1904-1905, in Kamrup, Darrang, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur having been attended with a fair amount of success, arrangements were made to repeat them at the same places during the last cold weather. Seed wheat was obtained from Dumraon in Behar, and in all 7 maunds were distributed for experiment. A fair yield was obtained in most cases. The quality of some of the samples of wheat grown in Darrang appeared to be very satisfactory, and some of the Jorhat and Kamrup samples were fairly good. In several cases, the grain appeared shrivelled and of a dull colour, though the yield was a fair one. Arrangements are being made to have further experiments in wheat conducted in Darrang, Sibsagar, and Kamrup during the ensuing cold season. Lakhimpur is the dampest district in the Assam Valley and is not likely to suit wheat well.

The results of the experimental cultivation of Muzaffarnagar wheat at Rajshahi and Dinajpur have not been encouraging on the whole, the unfavourable weather of the year being largely responsible for the failure.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Experiment in tea growing at Shillong.

522. In the beginning of 1905 an experiment was undertaken with a view to determine whether the Khasi Hills are suited for tea growing. It was conducted under the supervision of Mr. E. P. R. Gilman. A small established plantation attached to the house known as Mr. Rossenrode's at Upper Shillong was leased by him for the purpose and worked experimentally on behalf of Government, the necessary expenses being provided by Government. The yield of tea during the first year was very poor, but better results have been obtained in the second year. The tea was favourably reported on, and was valued in the commencement of the season at Re. 1-8 per lb. and at the end of the season at Rs. 2-8 per lb.

In addition to this experiment, and apart from it, a small tea nursery was laid out by Mr. Gilman near the Upper Shillong Farm, with the ultimate object of the development of a tea garden, but it proved a failure.

The experiments have since been discontinued.

Natal oranges.

523. The orange plants imported from Natal in 1902 have flourished, but have not as yet come into bearing.

Agricultural experiments in Government and wards' estates.

524. Considerable attention was paid to agricultural experiments in the Government and wards' estates in the Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions, but very little was done in this direction in the Dacca Division.

Agricultural and industrial education.

525. At the time of the partition, arrangements were in existence under which the Superintendents of the Experimental Farms at Rangpur, Rajshahi, and Chittagong gave agricultural instructions to boys of the local schools, and were each given an allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem for the extra work. The allowances were paid out of the funds of the Education Department. The Agricultural Department has had no direct concern with the Experimental Farm at Chittagong. The agricultural class at Rajshahi was continued till May last, when it was abolished under the orders of Government. The agricultural class at Rangpur consists of a few pupils who are sons of cultivators and who receive instruction from the Superintendent in the method of cultivating tobacco and in the making of cigars. They receive each a stipend of Rs. 4 per mensem from the District Board. The class is being still continued.

Rajshahi Diamond Jubilee Industrial School.

526. This institution continued to have three separate branches during the year, namely, sericultural, weaving, and technical. Apart from the grants received from other sources, a contribution of Rs. 500 was made in aid of the sericultural branch from the funds of the Agricultural Department. The subjects of study in this branch are at present limited to the theory and practice of silkworm culture, and the course extends over six months, thus giving two sessions in a year, commencing from January and July, respectively. Two sets of pupils passed during the year, three in July and four in January. It has been decided to remodel the sericultural branch on a more popular basis and to make it a provincial institution.

Students of the sericultural as well as those of the amin classes attended theoretical instructions on agriculture at the Rajshahi Farm. But this teaching was found useless, not being associated with any practical work, and has accordingly been discontinued since May last.

Deputation of students to Pusa and Chinsura.

527. Two students, one an Assamese and the other a native of the Khasi Hills, were sent to the Pusa Agricultural College in 1905 at Government expense for training in general farming. The latter, who was formerly in charge of the Upper Shillong Agricultural Station and Fruit Garden, has come back after going through a course of practical training for nearly nine months. He has been appointed Superintendent of the Khasi Hills Experimental Stations.

Another Khasia has been sent to Pusa since the close of the year for a course of entomological training.

During the period under report, six students, four from Sylhet and two from the Khasi Hills, were sent to Chinsura for learning the use of the fly-shuttle loom invented by Messrs. P. N. De & Co. Each student was granted a scholarship of Rs. 15 per month and travelling expenses both ways. They have since returned after having gone through a full course of training.

Demonstration of the fly-shuttle loom.

528. With a view to demonstrate the use of the improved fly-shuttle loom in the Khasi Hills, a trained weaver, with a loom invented by Messrs. P. N. De & Co., of Chinsura in Bengal, was obtained in May last. The use of the loom was demonstrated at the Flower Show held at Shillong on the 24th May 1906. An unexpected demand for instruction in the use of the loom having arisen, the weaver was kept employed at Shillong for two months. A large number of candidates, both Khasias and Bengalis, attended the demonstration. Since the close of the year arrangements have been made to demonstrate the use of the loom at Sylhet and at Kalain in Cachar.

A weaving institution has been established at Sylhet by private enterprise. A grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 per month has been sanctioned for this institution experimentally for one year.

Sericulture.

529. The Bengal Silk Committee did useful work during the year at Malda and Rajshahi. Two rearing houses or "nurseries" were established by them in the latter district.

Agricultural Shows.

530. Agricultural Shows were held during the year at Malda, Faridpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra, and Silchar, to each of which a contribution of Rs. 150, 200, 500, 200, 100, and 1,150, respectively, were made by Government.

Flower Shows.

531. The first Flower Show was held at Shillong in June 1904. During the period under report, two more shows were held, one on the 27th September 1905 and the other on the 24th May 1906. The exhibition of September 1905, which was the second annual show held at Shillong, did not prove quite so successful as the first one held in June of the previous year, but the third show held in May 1906 attracted a much larger number of exhibits and proved more attractive.

Agricultural Associations.

532. At present there are two Divisional Agricultural Associations, at Chittagong and Rajshahi, and three District Associations, at Rangpur, Malda and Bogra. It is believed they did very little work.

Experimental stations.

533. At the beginning of the year the Agricultural Department had under its control three experimental stations, at Shillong, Upper Shillong, and Wahjain. With the creation of the province, two more, one at Rajshahi and the other at Rangpur, were added. A new experimental station was established during the year at Jorhat, which is to be devoted mainly to the cultivation of sugarcane, and steps were taken to establish a large central farm in the vicinity of Dacca. At the Shillong Farm various kinds of fruit and vegetables are being tried, and among these, peach, strawberry, figs, tree tomato, rhubarb, and asparagus have already proved successful. An attempt is being made to popularize them among the Khasias An experiment in the rearing of the European silkworm, initiated in 1904, was continued during this year, and was attended with complete success. Several varieties of potato were grown at the Upper Shillong Farm, and some of them gave fair to good yields. The Patna breed of cattle, originally introduced in this farm some years ago, has become thoroughly acclimatized to the Khasi Hills, and there is a considerable demand now for young stock of this breed amongst the Khasias. The success of silo pits for the preservation of fodder at the farm has induced a number of Khasia cultivators in the neighbourhood to adopt this method. Numerous tropical plants of economic value are under trial at the Wahjain plantation, the most important among these being cocoa, lesser cardamum, cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, lemon-grass, and camphor. Most of the plants are reported to be doing well, but nothing can be said as yet as to their ultimate success. The only definite result obtained during the year was with lemon-grass, trial distillations of which gave a yield of 5 ounces of essential oil to a maund of grass. The oil was valued at 6 annas per ounce. It is believed that the cultivation of this grass will pay well. The Rajshahi and Rangpur Farms were established early in 1905, and have not been in existence long enough to yield definite results. The tobacco experiments in the latter farm indicate, however, the possibility of growing exotic tobacco with success for the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes.

SECTION 2.—Weather, Crops and Prices.

Character of the season.

534. The rainfall throughout the province was almost everywhere considerably in excess of the normal. The excess occurred chiefly in the four months from June to September. Two unusually high floods occurred in the Brahmaputra,— one in the middle of August and one early in September. Their duration, as well as their height, caused much damage to crops. In the Surma Valley several floods occurred. The low-lying tracts of Eastern Bengal suffered very severely from the effects of the swollen state of the big rivers and the heavy rainfall. In Assam a considerable part of the late transplanted rice crop was destroyed and the duration of the floods made a second transplantation an impossibility in many places. In Eastern Bengal the damage done to the late rice crop (*aman*) in the great rice-growing districts was greater and more general than in Assam.

Taking all crops together, the produce of the year is estimated to have been 22 per cent. below the normal.

Cropped areas and outturn.

535. For rice the season proved most unfavourable. The prospects of the early rice crop in Eastern Bengal were indifferent from the start, and floods at the time of harvest did much damage. The late rice crop was equally bad, except in Jalpaiguri

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and tracts not liable to inundation. In the great rice-growing districts in the south of the province the harvest was particularly bad. The final forecast for this crop indicated that the crop would be well below the normal; but subsequent enquiries have proved that the damage by inundation was both more severe and more widespread than was supposed, while much injury was done by insects. In Bakarganj the outturn of both rice crops was not more than 55 per cent. of the normal. In the Assam Valley the harvest was bad in all parts affected by the floods of the Brahmaputra and below normal elsewhere.

The quality of jute, rather than the outturn, suffered from the weather, but the outturn per acre was in most districts reported to be below the normal. The area placed under this crop showed some expansion.

The area under rape and mustard was less than in the previous year by 8 per cent. in Eastern Bengal and slightly below the previous year's figures in Assam. The season was generally unfavourable and the outturn poor. In the Assam Valley, the poorness of the mustard crop was unfortunate, as the crop of 1904-1905 was a short one.

Generally, it may be said, the year was one of difficulty for the cultivator, and the partial failure of the rice crop over a very large area has affected almost all classes all over the province, owing to the general rise in the price of rice. During the late autumn a brisk demand for export still further shortened supplies. Up to the end of the year scarcity had not become acute, because the deficiency in local supplies had been made up by rice imported from Burma.

Irrigated area.

536. The only irrigated area for which statistics are available, with the exception of a small area in Rangpur, is North Kamrup, where 51,104 acres were found to be under irrigation at the time of the recent settlement. The figures are not annually revised. Transplanted rice is the only crop grown on the irrigated area.

Prices.

537. The price of rice rose rapidly, as soon as the extent of the floods made it apparent that the outturn of the late rice crops would be seriously affected. The price of mustard ruled high because of the poorness of the previous year's crop; and the crop of 1906 was not of sufficient abundance to lower the price materially, although it fell slightly in the Assam Valley towards the end of the year. Jute rose to extraordinarily high prices in 1905-1906, as the supply was inadequate to meet the demand.

SECTION 3.—Forests.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906.]

Forest divisions.

538. With the addition of the three forest divisions of Buxa, Jalpaiguri, and Chitttagong during the year, there are now fourteen divisions in the province.

Area.

539. The area of the reserves increased by 26·88 square miles, and now stands at 6,002·8 square miles, or 6·1 per cent. of the area of the whole province. Reservations aggregating 20 square miles were effected in Nowgong, the Garo Hills, and Lakhimpur, a rectification of boundaries in Jalpaiguri resulted in a loss of 4·08 square miles, while the adoption of forest survey figures for Kamrup and the Garo Hills added 10·96 square miles. Twelve areas (including the proposed game sanctuaries in Nowgong and Sibsagar) still remain under settlement.

Breaches of forest law.

540. Excluding Chittagong, where a large number of cases of illegal *jhuming* were compounded, the divisional returns of offences reported showed no marked variations. Six hundred and ninety cases were reported, of which more than half occurred in Sylhet, Chittagong, and Jalpaiguri, and of the 197 cases tried in Court, 32 resulted in acquittals. These results cannot be regarded as altogether satisfactory.

Owing no doubt to the early rains, only 12 cases of injury by fire were reported. Offences of this description are extremely difficult of detection, and in 10 cases the offenders remained undiscovered. Rupees 10,208 were realized as compensation, giving an average of Rs. 6-3-11 for each person proceeded against.

Protection from fire.

541. The area specially protected from fire decreased from 1,651 to 1,392 square miles. The decrease is apparent only, and is due to the correction of areas following recent surveys and to the exclusion of a large area in Chittagong, which, though partially protected, had hitherto been shown as specially protected. The operations were successful, and the percentage of area successfully protected was 99·7. There were in all 16 outbreaks of fire affecting less than 5 square miles.

The effect of fire protection on the natural regeneration of *sal* in Kamrup and Goalpara was referred to in the Resolution on the Assam Forest Report for 1904-1905. The Inspector General of Forests, after a tour in these districts, came to the conclusion that in dry (high-level) *sal* areas conservancy was a necessity, but that in moist

(low-level) areas, experiments with the use of fire in forests of no particular value should be made. The subject is one of great interest and importance, and if the low-level areas are similar in this respect to some of the teak forests of Burma, a fact of much practical value in forest administration will have been established.

Working plans.

542. The working plans for the Nambor reserved forest, for the reserved forests of the Buxa division and for those of the Jalpaiguri division were completed and sanctioned during the year. A working plan for an area of 3 square miles of *sal* forest in the Darrang division was drawn up, and is now under the consideration of the Local Government. In Goalpara, pending the revision of the working plan, the provisional scheme of felling sanctioned was carried out. In the Garo Hills the provisions of the Dambu and the Darugiri working plans continued to be acted upon to meet the sleeper demands of the Eastern Bengal State Railways.

Communications and buildings.

543. The Goalpara tramway justified its existence, and an extension of 3½ miles has recently been sanctioned. A sum of Rs. 20,279 was spent on the development of communications. An expenditure of Rs. 16,754 on new buildings and of Rs. 13,925 on repairs was incurred. Two new inspection bungalows were constructed.

Rubber plantations.

544. There are a number of rubber plantations (aggregating 2,928 acres) scattered throughout the province. The most important is at Charduar, where 2,746 acres of *Ficus elastica* have been planted out. The net revenue of the year was Rs. 23,381 and the commercial value of the undertaking appears to have been established beyond doubt. The plantation has passed beyond the experimental stage, and it is unnecessary to maintain so large an area in order to settle by experiment the few doubtful points which still remain uncertain. It has, therefore, been decided to dispose of the plantation by sale or lease. The question of the method of its disposal is now under consideration.

Forest villages.

545. Six new forest villages were established during the year, and forest labour colonization promises to be successful. There are now 90 forest villages in the province.

Outturn of forest produce.

546. The total outturn of timber and fuel from the forests of the province was returned at 15,300,716 cubic feet, as against 16,195,128 cubic feet in the preceding year. The decrease was due to the extraction of a smaller quantity of fuel by purchasers in the Jalpaiguri division and to the abrogation of the home consumption permit system. The revenue from minor forest produce decreased from Rs. 7,61,444 to Rs. 7,35,874, due to smaller receipts from elephant *mahals*, inclusive of royalty on elephants captured by the lessees. The percentage of departmental work to the total outturn of timber worked out by different agencies rose from 2·5 to 3·4 cubic feet, mainly in consequence of the expansion of sleeper operations. One hundred forty-nine thousand and twenty-three sleepers were extracted departmentally, and 12,775 by purchasers. The value of minor forest produce, extracted by Government agency, amounted to Rs. 67,872. The outturn of tea-boxes showed a decrease of 25,148.

Financial results.

547. Information under this head will be found in Chapter V—"Revenue and Finance."

SECTION 4.—Manufactures and Mines.

[*See* Report on Tea Culture in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Sections XXVI and XXVII; Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1905-1906.]

Tea gardens opened and closed.

548. The only manufacture of importance in the province is that of tea. There were at the close of the year 942 gardens in all,—282 in the Surma Valley, 445 in the Assam Valley, 190 in Jalpaiguri, and 25 in Chittagong. Three gardens were closed, 21 were amalgamated with other gardens, and 3 were newly opened.

Area under cultivation.

549. The total area taken up is 1,347,252 acres, of which 422,335 are under tea. Of the area actually under cultivation, 405,486 acres are owned by Europeans and 16,849 by Indians. The area of land newly planted was 6,497 and that of cultivation abandoned 7,826.

Outturn of tea.

550. The total outturn of tea for the province amounted to 193,556,047 lbs. In the Brahmaputra Valley, the yield increased from 82,360,173 lbs. to 87,494,884 lbs., but in the Surma Valley it decreased from 70,488,824 lbs. to 65,281,934 lbs. In Eastern Bengal the total outturn was 40,779,229 lbs.

Export and import of tea-seeds.

551. Twenty-two maunds of tea seed were exported from the Brahmaputra Valley and 10 maunds from the Surma Valley. No tea seed was imported into either valley.

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Prices.

552. The average prices of tea obtained per pound in Calcutta and London, as furnished by the Secretary to the Indian Tea Association, are given below :—

1905.	Brahmaputra Valley teas.		Surma Valley teas.		Jalpaiguri teas.		Chittagong teas.	
	Number of packages.	Price per lb.	Number of packages.	Price per lb.	Number of packages.	Price per lb.	Number of packages.	Price per lb.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
London sale	664,469	9 *d.*	299,905	5¾ *d.*	209,050	6·05 *d.*	5,877	5½ *d.*
Calcutta sale	161,154	6 as. 3 p.	222,360	4 as. 6 p.	156,574	5 as. 3 p.	9,078	4 as. 5 p.

Even with an increased sale of 30,789 packages, prices for Assam Valley teas increased by 3 pies for Calcutta and by ·82 of a penny for London sale. Surma Valley sales fell by 54,197 packages, and this shrinkage was unfortunately accompanied by a drop of roughly a farthing per pound. This is stated to be due to some extent to the heavy crop in Ceylon and a diminishing demand for lower-class teas. Results in Eastern Bengal were very similar to those in the Surma Valley and were doubtless due to the same causes.

Coal.

553. The receipts from royalty on coal amounted to Rs. 40,565, of which Rs. 39,565 were realized in Lakhimpur, and the rest in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The total output from the four mines in the former district was 276,577 tons, and that from the Maolong mines in the latter was 450 tons.

Mineral oil.

554. The revenue from mineral oil was Rs. 11,550, or nearly double that of the previous year. The large increase was due to the fact that the output of the Assam Oil Company having exceeded the limit covered by the dead rent of their concession, they paid royalty on the excess. The total quantity of petroleum extracted was 2,733,110 gallons, against 2,585,920 gallons in the preceding year.

Lime.

555. The Khasi and Jaintia Hills is the only district in the province in which revenue is derived from limestone. Some of the quarries are owned by the Siems or by people of semi-independent States, who, under treaty rights, receive one-half of the revenue. The current demand from lime-quarries amounted to Rs. 18,930, of which Rs. 11,193 was the Government share. The whole of this amount was realized.

SECTION 5.—Factories.

[*See* Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1905 ; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIX.]

Number of factories and system of work.

556. The total number of factories in the province at the close of the year was 82,—12 in Assam and 70 in the transferred districts. Of the Assam factories, only the Railway workshop at Dibrugarh, the Petroleum refinery at Digboi, and the Sessi saw-mills, all in the Lakhimpur district, are of any importance. The number of Assam factories remained unchanged. The number of factories in Eastern Bengal at the close of 1904 was 81. In the Rajshahi Division 4 new factories were opened, and three were removed from the list. In Dacca ten factories were closed, two have been amalgamated in the returns, and one was removed from the list. Work was carried on in 13 factories by shifts or sets, in 36 with midday stoppages, in 1 by shifts and midday stoppages, and in 24 under other arrangements. Five factories were exempted from the rule requiring a Sunday or a weekly holiday. The average daily number of operatives (men, women, and children) employed was 13,192, against 12,741 in 1904.

Inspections.

557. Twenty-six factories were inspected once, 42 twice, 11 thrice, and 3 more than three times each. The Special Inspector of Factories inspected the Railway workshop at Saidpur. All other inspections were made by medical officers. The suggestions of the inspecting officers are reported to have been generally followed.

Sanitary arrangements.

558. The sanitary arrangements were generally satisfactory. There was no overcrowding in any factory.

General health of the operatives.

559. The general health of the operatives is reported to have been, on the whole, good, but reliable statistics are not available. Forty-five deaths occurred in Assam, chiefly in the Lakhimpur district, and 12 deaths from cholera were reported from the Eastern Bengal districts, all of which occurred in the factories of the Pabna district.

Employment of women and children.

560. In the Assam saw-mills women and children are employed in carrying, drying, and stocking tea shooks, and in removing sawdust and chips. The practice of employing children on such work was discontinued in the Tezpur saw-mills. In the jute

presses women and children are generally employed on light work. As out of the total number of operatives less than 10 per cent. are women and children and less than 5 per cent. children, the question of the employment of child labour is not a very pressing one in this province.

561. The machinery in all factories is reported to have been securely fenced and the provisions of the law observed. Fencing of machinery and mill gearing.

562. There were 19 accidents during the year, of which 2 were fatal, 12 serious, and 5 of an unimportant character. The two fatal accidents occurred in the Lakhimpur district. In the petroleum refinery at Digboi a steam pipe, which was being taken down by nine men, fell upon one of them and fractured his skull. In the Railway workshop at Dibrugarh an iron wheel fell upon a fitter and inflicted injuries which resulted in his death. It does not appear that in either case any blame was attached to the employers. Accidents.

563. The Manager of the Dehing saw-mills in Sibsagar was prosecuted under section 15, Act XV of 1881, for failure to submit punctually the annual returns, but a warning under section 249 of the Criminal Procedure Code was held to be sufficient to meet the case. Prosecutions.

TRADE.

SECTION 6.—Foreign Sea-borne Trade.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Customs Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906.]

564. In spite of the bad harvest and the system of boycott which prevailed in Eastern Bengal during the latter half of the year, the foreign trade rose in value from Rs. 2,98,27,397 to Rs. 3,17,77,846, or by Rs. 19,50,449. This increase was shared by both imports and exports.

565. Of the two customs ports in the province, Chittagong and Narayanganj, the trade of the latter is comparatively unimportant, and the port itself has, since the close of the year, been abolished. For all practical purposes, therefore, the foreign sea-borne trade is confined to Chittagong. The foreign trade of this port, which amounted to Rs. 317·76 lakhs during the year, is now more than four times what it was before 1901-1902, and, with the impetus it will receive under the new Government, the prospects of its further development in the near future seem hopeful.

SECTION 7.—Imports of merchandise.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Customs Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906.]

566. The 30·07 lakhs, which represented the value of imported merchandise, were distributed as follows among the principal articles in the import trade during the last two years:— Foreign imports.

	1905-1906. Rs.	1904-1905. Rs.
Apparel, etc.	1,769	3,930
Cotton piece-goods	3,21,380	1,87,478
Drugs and medicines	5,106	7,012
Hardware and cutlery	92,371	6,894
Liquors	14,689	9,254
Metals	8,08,769	4,97,559
Oil	4,645	82,486
Provisions	15,959	30,193
Railway materials	9,71,739	1,98,273
Salt	3,31,745	4,14,097
Sugar	6,975	...
Tea chests	2,41,238	4,77,072
All other articles of merchandise	1,91,559	6,58,669
Total	30,07,944	26,32,917

The figures include 9·71 lakhs worth of railway materials, which should scarcely be included in the trade figures. Excluding these materials, the value of imports during the year was Rs. 20·36 lakhs, showing a decrease, as compared with previous year, of Rs. 3·99 lakhs, or 16·4 per cent. A fall of Rs. 2·36 lakhs in the value of tea chests imported largely accounts for this decrease. More tea chests are now being made in Assam. Tea chests.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Metals.

567. The chief item among the foreign imports is "metals," the value of which rose from Rs. 4·98 lakhs to Rs. 8·09 lakhs, showing an increase of Rs. 3·11 lakhs or 62·5 per cent.; larger receipts of bridge work materials by the Assam-Bengal Railway and of corrugated iron by local firms to meet increased demand from the United Kingdom were responsible for the increase.

Salt.

568. Under "Salt," which is the next important item of foreign import, there was a decrease from Rs. 4·14 lakhs to Rs. 3·32 lakhs, due to there being a large stock in the Government salt golas in the beginning of the year as well as to the political agitation which followed upon the formation of the new province. It is worth noticing that, while imports of salt from the United Kingdom and Germany declined by 6,000 and 2,000 tons, respectively, there was an increase of 7,000 tons brought from Aden. "The people at Chittagong," remarks the Commissioner of that Division, "were advised from Calcutta that Aden is considered as part of India, and that, if they could not obtain the Indian article, they should prefer German to British.

Cotton piece-goods.

569. Cotton piece-goods imported from non-Indian ports showed an increase in value from Rs. 1·87 lakhs to Rs. 3·21 lakhs; the greater part of this increase was due to larger imports of grey goods from the United Kingdom and of prints and chintz from Antwerp. Most of the piece-goods that come to Chittagong are now brought by coasting steamers from Calcutta; but they should be imported from Europe straight to Chittagong. The arrangements there with the steamer companies for direct importation are, however, at present unsatisfactory.

Sugar.

570. Sugar was imported from Hongkong. This is an experimental and new source of supply.

Oil.

571. The trade in oil fell off by Rs. 77,841. In the previous year Rs. ·79 lakhs of kerosine oil were imported from Aroe Bay to compete with the oil from Burma. The competing companies having come to an arrangement, there was no such importation during the year.

Other foreign imports.

572. Other imports into Chittagong from non-Indian ports do not show a tendency at present to increase. In some items, indeed, such as provisions, drugs, apparel, etc., they show a decrease as compared with the previous year, due to larger quantities of these articles being brought by coasting steamers from Calcutta. "All other articles of merchandise" imported direct to Chittagong fell from Rs. 6·59 lakhs to Rs. 1·92 lakhs, which is explained by the fact that there was a smaller direct importation of machinery and mills.

Import trade of Chittagong with foreign countries.

573. Imports from the United Kingdom represented about 80 per cent. of the total import trade of Chittagong during the year, imports from other European countries about 7 per cent. and imports from Australia about 3 per cent. of the whole. The remainder is divided between America, Africa, and other countries in Asia.

SECTION 8.—Exports of merchandise.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Customs Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906.]

Export trade.

574. The value of the export trade of the province increased from Rs. 271·94 lakhs to Rs. 287·68, or by Rs. 15·74 lakhs.

The value of the different articles exported to foreign ports was as follows:—

	Rs.
Rice and paddy	5,89,270
Jute	1,25,17,862
Tea	1,55,78,512
All other articles of merchandise	82,855
Total	2,87,68,499
Total of 1904-1905	2,71,94,480

Tea and Jute.

575. Of exports, tea and jute are the most important items. They constituted during the year 89 per cent. of the whole foreign trade, or 97·6 per cent. of the foreign exports.

Exports of tea amounted in value to 155·79 lakhs, or 49 per cent. of the whole trade with foreign ports, both exports and imports, and in quantity to 41,535,870 lbs. The total shipment was shared by Chittagong and Assam.

Jute, which is the second article of importance in the foreign trade, was exported to Europe and America. The value of this trade was Rs. 125·18 lakhs, or nearly 40 per cent. of the whole trade with foreign ports.

During the year the value of tea exported showed an increase of Rs. 10·68 lakhs, or 7 per cent., while that of jute exported to foreign ports rose by Rs. 20·55 lakhs, or by almost 20 per cent. The figures below show the progress in the trade at the Chittagong port of the two chief articles of its commerce for the last two years:—

	Value exported from Chittagong to foreign ports.	
	Tea.	Jute.
	Rs.	Rs.
1901-1902	55·59 lakhs.	87 51 lakhs.
1902-1903	75·01 „	66·31 „
1903-1904	127·10 „	109·22 „
1904-1905	145·10 „	104·62 „
1905-1906	155·79 „	125·18 „

The exports of Assam tea direct from Chittagong have grown rapidly in this period, and will no doubt continue to increase, as this port is the nearest and most convenient port for Assam. The increase in the exports of jute has been decided, but not so consistent, which is partially due to the variations in the outturn of the crop; with the provision of better facilities for communication from the Dacca and Mymensingh districts to Chittagong, the trade in jute through this port should develop greatly.

576. The next item of importance in the foreign trade is the export of rice and paddy to Ceylon, the Mauritius, and Reunion. Owing to the very short crop in Eastern Bengal last season, the value of this trade fell from Rs. 22 lakhs to Rs. 5·89 lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 16·11 lakhs, or 73 2 per cent., which was quite fortuitous. Rice and paddy.

577. Other articles of export to foreign ports are of little importance, but it is worth noticing that a cargo of raw hemp was for the first time shipped to the United Kingdom from Chittagong during the year. Other articles of export.

578. Of the export trade of Chittagong the principal shares were taken by the United Kingdom (75 per cent.) and America (7 per cent.). The other European countries, Ceylon, and Africa divided the rest between them. Export trade of Chittagong with foreign ports.

SECTION 9.—Frontier Trade.

[Report on the Trade between Assam and the adjoining Foreign Tribes and Countries for the year 1905-1906.]

579. Trade was carried on during the year with the following tribes and countries:— Frontier trade.

1. Bhutan.
2. Towang.
3. Aka and Dafla tribes.
4. Abor, Mishmi, Naga, and Khamti tribes.
5. Manipur.
6. Hill Tippera.

No change was made either in the manner in which trade statistics were obtained or in the position of the registering stations.

580. The trade with each of the trans-frontier countries in merchandise may be stated in the figures appended:— Value of imports and exports.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1904-1905.	1905-1906.	1904-1905.	1905-1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhutan	1,06,420	1,36,216	64,204	37,308
Towang	27,838	82,907	15,069	16,175
Aka and Dafla Hills	42,793	71,588	16,990	880
Abor, Mishmi, etc., Hills ...	2,12,360	1,47,794	3,365	16,602
Manipur	3,73,573	3,17,508	2,68,005	2,11,958
Hill Tippera	5,38,555	7,02,105	1,95,379	2,47,094
Total	13,01,539	14,58,118	5,63,012	5,30,017

The total value of the trade (Rs. 19,88,135) showed a considerable increase as compared with the figures of the preceding year, *viz.*, Rs. 18,64,551. The increase was due, among other causes, to the larger importation of ponies and blankets from Towang, cattle and husked rice from Manipur, and raw cotton and unhusked rice from Hill Tippera, and to the larger exports of betel-nuts to Manipur and sugar to Hill Tippera and Manipur.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

581. 47·8 per cent. of the trade was carried on with Hill Tippera, 26·6 per cent. with Manipur, 8·8 per cent. with Bhutan, the balance being divided among the remaining frontier tribes.

Proportion of trade with each frontier tribe. Hill Tippera.

582. The trade with Hill Tippera is by far the largest on the frontier. Timber (value Rs. 2,77,932) and bamboos (value Rs. 1,53,393) accounted for more than half the total value of the imports from this place. Raw cotton was imported to the value of Rs. 1,44,070. The other important imports were canes and rattans, rice (husked and unhusked), and *til* or *jinjili*. The chief staples of export are gram and pulse, oil, provisions (*ghi*, dried fish, and other kinds), spices, sugar, and tobacco. The total under each of these showed a considerable increase over the figures of the previous year.

Manipur.

583. The trade with Manipur comes next in importance to that with Hill Tippera. The principal imports from this place were cattle (value Rs. 1,05,921), cotton piece-goods (value Rs. 21,824), husked rice (value Rs. 1,18,215), timber (value Rs. 25,347), and bamboos (Rs. 15,404). The chief articles of export were European cotton piece-goods (value Rs. 21,058), Indian cotton piece-goods (value Rs. 23,400), mineral oils (value Rs. 13,094), betel nuts (value Rs. 70,392), and salt (value Rs. 18,370).

Bhutan.

584. The principal imports of Bhutan consisted of caoutchouc and lac (stick and other kinds), which were imported to the value of Rs. 31,543 and Rs. 32,281, respectively. The other important articles of import are cattle, ponies, blankets, and timber. The chief exports were European twist and yarn, European cotton piece-goods, brass and copper, and raw and manufactured silk.

Towang.

585. The trade with Towang is practically of the same character as that with Bhutan.

Aka and Dafla tribes.

586. The import trade with Aka and Dafla Hills was confined practically to only one article, *viz.*, caoutchouc (value Rs. 70,257). The export trade is of no importance.

Abor, Mishmi, etc., Hills.

587. The only article of importance imported from these hills is caoutchouc. The import of this article showed a large decrease (from Rs. 2,06,123 to Rs. 1,39,925) during the year, which was due probably to a diminished supply in consequence of the merciless tapping of trees by the Abors in previous years. European cotton piece-goods, salt, and silk are the main articles of export.

SECTION 10.—Coasting Trade.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Customs Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906.]

588. The coasting trade of Chittagong is divided into trade with ports outside Bengal and trade with ports within Bengal, *viz.*, Calcutta, Narayanganj, and Nilla.

Value of imports and exports.

589. The total value of imports and exports of this trade during the last two years was as follows :—

	1905-1906. Rs.	1904-1905. Rs.
Imports.		
Ports in other Presidencies	37,53,371	36,69,031
„ within the Presidency	21,48,611	20,30,186
Indian ports not British	376	110
Total	59,02,358	56,99,327
Exports.		
Ports in other Presidencies	32,04,087	35,28,548
„ within the Presidency	54,58,429	19,74,090
Indian ports not British	...	16,651
Total	86,62,516	55,19,289

Coasting trade, which has hitherto shown a gradual decline, revived considerably during the year, and increased by 24 per cent. in value.

Coasting trade with non-Bengal ports.

590. The value of the trade between Chittagong and Indian ports outside Bengal fell from Rs. 72·14 lakhs to Rs. 69·58 lakhs, or by Rs. 2·56 lakhs.

Kerosine oil from Burma.

591. There was a decrease of 12 lakhs in the value of kerosine oil imported from Burma, due to the fact that the Burma Oil Company came to an arrangement with the Royal Asiatic Dutch Petroleum Company, which sent oil to Chittagong in the previous year, and the two Companies are now working conjointly. The prices have lately been raised considerably.

592. Exports of rice and paddy to Cochin and other ports in Southern India, which form a large item in the coasting trade at Chittagong, also declined from Rs. 20·95 lakhs to Rs. 8·16 lakhs, owing to the crops in this part of the country being short. The same reason contributed to the increase in the value of the imports of these articles from Burma to Chittagong from Rs. 51 lakhs to Rs. 15·15 lakhs. Rice and paddy exported to Southern India, and imported from Burma.

593. Shipments of treasure from Chittagong to Akyab, Rangoon, and Calcutta amounted to Rs. 19·38 lakhs, or 12 lakhs more than in the previous year. Exports of provisions, mainly eggs for Rangoon, rose from Rs. 3·29 lakhs to Rs. 4·15 lakhs, which was due to low freights, but there was a decrease of Rs. ·59 lakhs in wood imported from Rangoon, which was nearly compensated for by the import of Rs. ·54 lakhs of wood from Australia. Metals, salts, spices (betel-nuts and chillies) exported to Burma also showed a decrease. Chittagong is naturally the distributing port to Akyab and Northern Burma of imports brought from Europe. In normal years the coasting trade with Burma should increase. Treasure exported to Burma. Provisions and eggs for Rangoon. Wood from Burma.

594. The coasting trade with other ports in Bengal increased from Rs. 40·94 lakhs to Rs. 76·06 lakhs, or by 90 per cent. This trade is chiefly with Calcutta, the total value of that with Narayanganj being Rs. 6·01 lakhs and that with Nilla being negligible. The large increase was mainly due to the value of raw jute, Rs. 25·44 lakhs, exported *viâ* the Assam-Bengal Railway by coasting steamers to Calcutta. Coasting trade with Calcutta.

595. Exports of raw cotton to Calcutta rose from Rs. 6·11 lakhs to Rs. 10·15 lakhs, or by 64 per cent., and of hides and skins from Rs. 4·33 lakhs to Rs. 5·54 lakhs. The increase in the former case was due to the superior crop in the hill districts, and that, in the latter to development of trade in this part of the country. As Eastern Bengal and Assam furnish large quantities of hides and skins, it may be expected that direct shipments abroad will in time be made from this port. At present the selling and buying of these articles for exportation are confined to Calcutta. Cotton. Hides and skins.

596. The total value of the imports by coasting steamers from Calcutta to Chittagong fell from Rs. 19·44 lakhs to Rs. 16·72 lakhs, showing a decrease of Rs. 2·72 lakhs, or 14 per cent. The greater portion of this decrease was contributed by piece-goods, the value of which fell from Rs. 6·98 lakhs to Rs. 5·51 lakhs, or by Rs. 1·47 lakhs, due partly to the short rice crop, and partly to the effects of the political agitation against the use of English goods as a protest against the formation of the new province. Imports of metals declined by Rs. 1·80 lakhs, owing to the fact that more in corrugated iron was imported direct from Liverpool, but spices (betel-nuts and chillies) and sugar from Calcutta showed some increase. Imports from Calcutta.

597. The total value of the coasting trade at Narayanganj rose from Rs. 3,91,098 to Rs. 5,12,256 or by Rs. 1,21,158. Imports declined from Rs. 1,44,249 to Rs. 74,991, while the exports rose from Rs. 2,46,849 to Rs. 4,37,265. The decrease in imports was almost entirely due to the short importation of salt, which was as much as 4,530 tons. The increase in exports occurred chiefly in jute. Subordinate posts, Narayanganj.

SECTION 11.—Rail and River-borne Trade.

[Report on the Rail and River-borne Trade of the Province of Assam for the year ending the 31st March 1906.]

598. The total value of imports was 404 lakhs and of exports 737 lakhs of rupees. The value of imports decreased by 11 per cent., but the value of exports rose by 1½ per cent. The decrease in imports occurred chiefly under the heads cotton, piece-goods and twist and yarn, brass and copper, kerosine oil, salt, and unrefined sugar. The increase in the exports was most noticeable under rice, jute, raw, oranges, raw cotton, and hides of cattle. Inter-provincial Trade in Assam. Total trade.

599. In the Assam Valley, 76 per cent. of the weight of the trade was carried by water, against 84 per cent. in 1904-1905; the rest was carried by rail. In the Surma Valley, 16 per cent. of the total trade went by rail and the rest by river, as compared with 10 per cent. in the preceding year. The rail carried 22 per cent. of the imports to Sylhet and 33 per cent. of the imports to Cachar, against 20 and 28 per cent., respectively, in the preceding year; while 87 per cent. of exports from Sylhet and 75 per cent. from Cachar went by river, against 93 and the 87 per cent., respectively, in 1904-1905. The rail-borne trade is gradually increasing and the river-borne trade decreasing: 52 per cent. of the coal, 36 per cent. of the kerosine oil, and 38 per cent. of the salt which entered the Surma Valley was carried by rail. Proportion of Rail and River-borne trade of Assam.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Direction of trade.

600. Almost all the trade of Assam is with Bengal. The trade with the other provinces was only one per cent of the whole. The bulk of the trade is with Calcutta, which sent 65 per cent. in value of the imports and took 57 per cent. in value of the exports. From this port came almost all the cotton, twist and yarn, cotton piece-goods (European), and the greater part of metals, salt, and refined sugar, while to it was consigned most of the tea, lac, mustard seed, and jute.

Eastern Bengal.

601. No separate statistics are available for Eastern Bengal.

SECTION 12.—Public Works.

[*See* Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Eastern Bengal and Assam, for 1905-1906.]

BUILDINGS.

Expenditure.

602. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 42,64,338. The Public Works Department spent Rs. 34,87,763—Rs. 1,49,798 on Imperial works, Rs. 32,57,105 on Provincial works, and Rs. 80,560 on Contribution and Irrigation works. The balance (Rs. 7,76,575) was spent by the local authorities. An expenditure of Rs. 73,246 was incurred on the Jorhat Railway.

I.—IMPERIAL WORKS.

Military works.

603. The work of raising and improving the Imphal river protective bund in the Manipur cantonment was nearly completed.

Civil Works Accounts.

604. On account of the formation of the new province, temporary office accommodation and a separate record-room were provided for the Accountant General, Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Post and Telegraph offices.

The Saidpur Telegraph office, which was commenced in 1900-1901, and the additions and alterations to the postmaster's quarters at Silchar were completed. The combined Post and Telegraph offices at Jalpaiguri and Pabna were enlarged, a building, purchased at Barisal by the Telegraph Department to be used as an office, was thoroughly repaired, while a delivery room was constructed for the Silchar Post office. A combined office and residence for the Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs at Dibrugarh, Combined Post and Telegraph offices at Saikwaghat and Dumduma, and additions and alterations to the Post office at Golaghat were in progress

II.—PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Residences for Government Officials.

605. A temporary residence for the Lieutenant-Governor and a set of staff quarters containing five complete suites of rooms, with all necessary out-offices, were constructed on a site, to the north of the town of Dacca, lent by Nawab Salimulla and were provided with water pipes and electric fans. The old staff quarters in Government House, Shillong, were dismantled and new ones constructed. Improvements were carried out in the grounds of Government House.

Houses were constructed, completed or improved for the Judge of the Assam Valley Districts at Gauhati, for the Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong, for the Executive Engineer of the Rajshahi division at Saidpur, for the Civil Surgeons of Mymensingh and Barisal, for the Subdivisional Officers of Narayanganj and Sirajganj, for the Collector of Chittagong, and for the District Superintendent of Police, Bogra. Bungalows were purchased for the Commandant, Military Police, Dibrugarh, and for the Superintending Engineer, Assam Circle, at Tezpur; the Assistant Commandant's bungalow at Lungleh was nearly completed, and additions and alterations were carried out in the Assistant Commandant's bungalow at Aijal. Materials were collected for the construction of residences for the Commissioner of the Surma Valley and Hill Districts at Silchar, for the Deputy Commissioners at Dhubri and Jorhat, for the District Superintendents of Police, Barisal and Jorhat, and for the Civil Surgeon and Inspector of Schools at Jorhat. Quarters for the Deputy Commissioners at Shillong and Jalpaiguri, for the Assistant Settlement Officer of Nowgong, for two Munsifs at Barisal, for five Munsifs at Munshiganj, and for two Munsifs at Naogaon and Kasba were under construction.

Secretariat and other Departmental offices.

606. Temporary office accommodation was provided at Shillong for the Inspectors General of Prisons and Registration, and for the Sanitary Commissioner; the Civil Secretariat office and record-room were extended, and the old Assam-Bengal Railway Press building was reconstructed to accommodate the Vandyke Press at Shillong. The offices of the Board of Revenue at Dacca, which have been temporarily located in hired buildings, were provided with office furniture.

607. A court-house for the Deputy Magistrates at Noakhali was completed, and improvements to the court of the Deputy Magistrates at Jalpaiguri were effected. Additions and alterations to the Deputy Commissioner's office at Tezpur were carried out, and a porch was added to the Deputy Commissioner's court at Gauhati. A shed for witnesses was constructed at Silchar and a library for the mukhtears was nearly completed at Sylhet. Land was acquired at Rangpur for the extension of the Collectorate compound, while materials were collected for the construction of the Deputy Commissioner's court-house at Jorhat and the Commissioner's office at Silchar. Collectorates and Magistrates' Courts, etc.

608. The extension of the District Judge's record-room at Noakhali and the double munsifi in the same district were completed. A single munsifi at South Roajan in the Chittagong district and two others at Sherpur and Kishorganj in the Mymensingh district were in progress, while improvements to the Munsif's court at Chandpur were carried out. Two libraries, one for the pleaders of the Judge's court and another for the pleaders of the Munsifs' court at Sylhet, were completed or nearly completed. Civil Courts.

609. The subdivisional court-house at Sunamganj was reconstructed, and the offices at Balurghat in the Dinajpur district were completed. A separate treasury building for Maulvi Bazar was in progress, while accommodation was provided for witnesses at Mangaldai. Subdivisional Courts.

610. A new circuit-house was constructed at Dibrugarh, and extensions to the circuit-house at Tezpur were completed. Additions and alterations to the Superintendent's office and club at Aijal were carried out. Circuit-houses, etc.

611. The extension of the Sadr Registration office at Dinajpur was in progress. Registration.

612. At Dacca the construction of the new buildings for the College was continued. The Dufferin Moslem Hostel and the Training College in the same town, a hostel for the Training school at Chittagong, the High school at Nowgong, the reconstruction of the Middle Vernacular school in the same town, a Middle Vernacular school and the reconstruction of the boarding house of the High school at Tezpur, a boarding house for the Williamson apprentices at the Jorhat State Railway workshop, and a third hostel for the Dibrugarh High school were completed. A Training school for teachers at Jorhat was nearly finished, and a hostel and a resident master's quarters for it were commenced. Materials were collected for re-roofing the Jalpaiguri zilla school and for the construction of an Arabic Madrassah at Chittagong and a Muhammadan boarding house at Jorhat. Materials were collected for, and work commenced on, the Jubilee High school at Sunamganj, Training school at Silchar, and Moslem hostels for the Government High schools in the same town and at Sylhet. Improvements were carried out in the school building at Gauhati and in the European and Eurasian school at Shillong, while improvements to the Dibrugarh High school were in progress. Educational buildings.

613. Quarters for two assistant jailors at Dacca, two double-storied hospitals, one for the Malda and another for the Chittagong jail, were completed : a European ward was also finished in the latter jail. A double-storied barrack in the Rajshahi jail was in hand, and the quarters of the Superintendent of that jail were improved. Houses for the jail officials at Pabna, and a sleeping barrack for prisoners in the Gauhati jail were built. Four solitary cells were added to the latter jail, and ten others, six for the Barisal jail and four for the Rangpur jail, were under construction. Two "A" class barracks in the Tezpur jail were in progress, and the construction of a double-storied hospital at Mymensingh was continued. Materials for a double-storied barrack and for improvements to existing buildings in the Barisal jail and also for enlarging the sub-jail at Brahmanbaria were collected, while land was acquired for the construction of a jail at Jorhat, the new headquarters of the Sibsagar district. Improvements were carried out or were in progress in some other jails. Jails.

614. Barracks for the police, Civil or Military, were either constructed, repaired or were in progress at Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Bogra, Nowgong, and the reconstruction of the police barracks at Noakhali was completed. Thanas were erected at Demagiri, North Lakhimpur, and at Sirajganj. Police hospitals were built at Dibrugarh, Noakhali, and at Tezpur, while additions and alterations were carried out to the Chittagong police hospital. The police buildings at Kulaura were in progress, materials for certain thana buildings at Habiganj and Margherita were collected, while the construction of a barrack for the married constables of the Civil Police at the same station was sanctioned. Police buildings.

615. A block of four solitary cells and a male ward in the Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur were completed, and the civil hospital at Aijal was nearly completed. Two additional male wards in the Lunatic Asylum at Tezpur, the dispensary buildings and hospital assistants' quarters at Dimapur, and office building for the Civil Surgeon at Rajshahi, Medical.

and an indoor ward to the dispensary at Rangamati in the Chittagong Hill Tracts were under construction. Two mortuaries, one for Jorhat and another for Manikganj, were completed, and three others were in progress.

Excise.

616. A new *ganja gola*, a guard-house, and quarters for the Sub-Deputy Collector in charge were completed at Naogaon. Additions and alterations were also made in the three original *golas*. The central distillery buildings at Jorhat were finished.

Public Works Department buildings.

617. Temporary quarters for 100 clerks were constructed at Shillong to meet the demand for accommodation, created by the enlargement of the province. Quarters for the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department, at Shillong were practically completed, and a residence for the Executive Engineer there was under construction. The Deputy Examiner's bungalow, belonging to the Jorhat State Railway, was converted into a residence for the Assistant Engineer in charge of the Jorhat Special Works division.

Ecclesiastical.

618. The marble floor for the chancel of the Shillong church was completed, and two vestry rooms were added to the churches at Gauhati and Dhubri.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

619. The remodelling of the Gauhati waterworks and the restoration of certain Assamese protective embankments in the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts were in progress.

The Rivers Steamer Company's dredging operations on the shoal near the Dibrugarh steamer ghât were subsidised, and an experimental artesian boring was sanctioned at Jorhat. The drainage and levelling of the site for the new headquarters station at Jorhat were in hand, and two miles of tramway line were laid down for the carriage of materials, etc., for the new buildings. Improvements were carried out to the lake and dam at Haflong.

Contribution Works.

620. The Dufferin Moslem hostel at Dacca was nearly completed, and additions and alterations to P. N. Roy's charitable dispensary at Boalia were carried out. The construction of a High school building at Haflong and of Middle English school buildings at North Lakhimpur and Sadiya were finished. The buildings about Kench's trace, Shillong, were provided with a pipe water-supply. Materials were collected for sinking four wells in the Sylhet Municipality.

COMMUNICATIONS.

621. On Communications, Original Works, a sum of Rs. 5,52,994 was expended:—

	Rs.
(*a*) On bridges	1,77,603
(*b*) On new cart roads	79,271
(*c*) On bridle roads	2,413
(*d*) On dâk and inspection bungalows	43,831
Total	3,03,118

The balance was spent on improvements to existing roads. A brief description of the principal works is given below :—

Jalpaiguri.

622. The Rajabhatkhowa-Jaigaon and Jainti-Rydak roads in the Eastern Duars, Jalpaiguri district, 20 and 12 miles long, respectively, were completed, and the Gairkatta-Dhupguri and the Sulkapara-Thaljora roads in the Western Duars of the same district were nearly so.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts.

623. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Rangamati-Mahalsari road was finished, and improvements were carried out in the Chandraghona-Bandarban road.

Naga Hills Division.

624. The following important works in the Naga Hills division were in progress or completed :—

(1) Metalling the 1st Section, Dimapur-Manipur road (Nichuguard to Manipur).
(2) Improving and metalling the worst portions of Dimapur-Manipur road (Mao to Nichuguard).
(3) Metalling the worst portions of Nichuguard-Manipur road (Manipur to Mao).
(4) Improving Dimapur-Nichuguard road.
(5) Constructing slab drains on the Dimapur-Manipur road.
(6) Constructing breast walls ditto.
(7) Restoring Nowgong-Dhing road.
(8) Metalling portion of Assam Trunk road.
(9) Improving Kharikhana-Lanka road.
(10) Improving the Chapparmukh-Barpujia road.
(11) Constructing a bridge over the Barak river at Karong.
(12) Constructing a bridge over the Dhansiri river at Dimapur.

Shillong-Cherra cart road.

625. Rupees 10,011 were spent on metalling a portion of the road, and Rs. 3,380 in constructing breast and retaining walls. A bridge was also constructed at Myllim.

626. Metalling of the portion of the road up to the 17th mile west of Gauhati, in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills division, was in progress. The replacing of the planked roadways of certain bridges in the Lower Assam division by corrugated iron sheets, and placing earthenware pipes in some of the culverts, were nearly completed, and a semi-permanent bridge in the 42nd mile was completed. In the Upper Assam division the following works on the road were completed or in progress :— Assam Trunk road.

(1) Metalling the worst portions near Dibrugarh towards Sibsagar (completed).
(2) Metalling 4th to 6th mile between Dibrugarh and Dehing (completed).
(3) Raising low portion between Dehing and Dibrugarh (completed).
(4) Metalling the portion of this road fronting *hâts* (in progress).
(5) Replacing corrugated iron drain pipes by brick drains and culverts, Dibrugarh to Sadiya (in progress).
(6) Replacing timber bridges by permanent ones in the Golaghat subdivision (in progress).
(7) Metalling the worst portion within Sibsagar town (in progress).

Metal was collected for metalling $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles between the Bhogdoi river bridge and the Tarajan culvert at Jorhat.

The planking of the roadways of some of the bridges between Gauhati and Palasbari cost Rs. 3,308.

627. In the Lower Assam division the Kuapani bridge was rebuilt and extended. The raising and improving of the road between Tezpur and the river Bhoreli in the 9th mile east of Tezpur was nearly completed. Materials were collected for a screw pile bridge on the Gilladhari river. In the Upper Assam division, the extension of Section I of the road was almost finished, a bridge over the Bokanadi was completed, while another over the Goriajan was in progress. North Trunk road.

628. The Gauhati-Shillong cart road was considerably improved and was also raised in miles 15 and 16. Gauhati-Shillong cart road.

629. Three screw pile bridges in miles 8, 17, and 29 were in progress. The improvement of the road from Naharkutia to Jaipur and of the Jaipur road was completed. Dhubri-Kochugaon road.

630. The construction of a road for Block No. XI and of a 15′ span bridge in the 1st mile of the McCabe road at Shillong was finished. Shillong roads.

631. A bridle path between the terminus of the proposed Ishamati-Dwara Bazar Railway at Ishamati and the Cherra-Shella bridle path was constructed, and a two-foot trace along the survey of the proposed cart road from Cherra to Ishamati was cut. Bridle paths.

632. A clinometer survey of a cart road from Mawphlang either to Lengar bazar or the mouth of the Umpani river was in progress. Reconnaissance for a road to connect Shillong with the South.

633. Materials were collected for widening and metalling the first 18 miles of the Silchar-Hailakandi road from Silchar to Duarband, and metalling of Nazir Ali, Nazira Bazar, and the Railway station was in progress. Portions of the first four miles of the Habiganj-Shaistaganj road were metalled. Five timber bridges on the Burnimukh road were replaced by permanent structures. The construction of seven permanent bridges on the Maulvi Bazar-Shamshernagar road and of a permanent bridge over the Dimoo river were in progress, and the Bholakuri bridge in the 6th mile of the Silchar-Hailakandi road was repaired. Some work was done on diverting the Cachar-Manipur road at the Chiri river encroachment. Other works done.

634. Certain roads and bridle paths with their inspection bungalows were in charge of the Deputy Commissioners and Forest Officers.

635. The Sema bridle path was traced out and some 44 miles constructed. The work is being done by free labour. The Bagtimukh path, 37 miles in length, was completed. In addition to the above paths, $459\frac{3}{4}$ miles of bridle paths and 36 inspection bungalows were maintained at a cost of Rs. 30,939, including establishment ; and two new inspection bungalows were constructed at Isanki and Cheswejuma. Roads and bridle paths in the Naga Hills under the Deputy Commissioner.

636. The Deputy Commissioner is in charge of 148 miles of unmetalled roads, 7 miles of bridle paths, 17 inspection bungalows, 11 serai houses and a hospital at Dalu. Garo Hills.

637. The Subdivisional Officer at Haflong is in charge of the Haflong subdivisional buildings, 228 miles of bridle paths, and 8 inspection bungalows. North Cachar Hills.

638. Rupees 10,013 were expended by the Deputy Commissioner on the maintenance of 298 miles of roads and 11 inspection bungalows. Most of the 298 miles are bridle roads, but about 12 miles are metalled roads in the suburbs of Shillong. Rupees Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

3,821 were spent on minor original works connected with the roads. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Goalpara, repaired a portion of the west Trunk road from Garubhasa to Sankos and 3 inspection bungalows.

Lushai Hills.

639. The principal works in progress were the construction of the Aijal-Falam road, 105½ miles, to be cut to a width of 6 feet, and the Aijal-Lungleh road, 106 miles. Improvements in widening and realigning portions of the Aijal-Duarbund road were carried out.

Dak and Inspection bungalows.

640. A combined hotel and dâk bungalow at Shillong was completed at a total cost of Rs. 30,511, and a sum of Rs. 9,103 was spent on annexures to the hotel for providing additional accommodation for visitors. The dâk bungalow at Dumpep was completed, and three others at Dimapur, Salchapra, and Hailakandi were in progress. Inspection bungalows at Sheolamukh and Shamshernagar in Sylhet and at Bhagutpur on the Sulkapara-Thaljora road in the Jalpaiguri district were finished, and one at Messa in the Nowgong district was in hand. A sum of Rs. 5,346 was sanctioned for constructing subordinates' staging huts at Fakirganj, Krishnai, Rangjuli, Tura, and Rowmari in the Lower Assam division. Permanent inspection bungalows and rest camps, principally on the Aijal-Duarbund and Aijal-Lungleh roads in the Lushai Hills, were provided.

641. On the maintenance of communications a sum of Rs. 5,76,903 was expended on the following classes of roads :—

	Miles.
(i) Metalled roads	203·08
(ii) Unmetalled roads (including short metalled lengths) ...	1,528·73
(iii) Bridle roads	1,720·30

The expenditure also includes the maintenance of dâk and inspection bungalows.

RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

Lines under the Government of India.

642. There are no railways in Eastern Bengal and Assam on the standard gauge. The metre-gauge lines (with the exception of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway) are under the direct control of the Government of India.

Additions to mileage.

643. An addition of 44·47 miles on the 3′-3⅜″ gauge was made to the open mileage in the province during the year.

Lines sanctioned.

644. The construction by the Assam-Bengal Railway of a line on the 3′-3⅜″ gauge from Sylhet to Kulaura, a distance of about 31 miles, at an estimated cost of 22 lakhs, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

Surveys.

645. The surveys in progress during the year were :—

Lines appertaining to the Eastern Bengal State Railway (1) from Rangiya station on the Gauhati extension to Tezpur, 78 miles, on the 3′-3⅜″ gauge ; (2) from Mymensingh *viâ* Netrakona to Lengar Bazar (or thereabouts), 40 miles, on the 3′-3⅜″ gauge.

Lines appertaining to the Assam-Bengal Railways and Trading Company, Limited (Dibru-Sadiya Railway), an extension from Talap station on the main line to Saikhwaghat, a length of 9 miles, on the 3′-3⅜″ gauge.

The Railway Board sanctioned a survey, through the agency of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, of an extension of the Barsoe-Kishanganj Branch (metre gauge) of the Eastern Bengal State Railway *viâ* Titalia to Jalpaiguri on the main line, a distance of 59 miles.

Important matters dealt with.

646. The Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam expressed its views to the Government of India on the following matters :—

(1) Establishment of a wagon ferry between Chandpur and Narayanganj to effect through communication between Dacca and Chittagong.

(2) Transfer of the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway to the working agency of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

(3) Proposal to run a line from Mymensingh past the coal-fields of the Garo Hills up to the foot of the Khasi Hills at Bawalgaon, with the possible ultimate object of prolonging it to Sylhet.

(4) Proposal to run a ferry boat, either by the Eastern Bengal State Railway or the Assam-Bengal Railway, between Chandpur and Narayanganj for passengers, mails, and light goods.

(5) Construction of the proposed bridge over the Ganges at Sara.

Proposals were received for the construction of light railways by local enterprise, connecting (1) Sibsagar with the Assam-Bengal Railway at Nazira and the steamer ghât at Dikhumukh, and (2) Sirajganj with Ullapara.

Certain modifications of schedule rates in force at the Teesta ferry between Jalpaiguri and Barnes junction were suggested. Enquiries were made whether the Bengal Duars Railway will consent to transfer the control of the ferry to the District Board, as serious complaint regarding its management had reached the Government.

Railways controlled by the Local Government.

647. The railways in Eastern Bengal and Assam which are administered or controlled by the Local Government are :—

(i) Jorhat State Railway	30·25 Miles.
(ii) Tezpur-Balipara Railway	20·10 „
(iii) Dibru-Sadiya Railway	77·50 „

Jorhat State Railway.

648. Gauge 2′. The total direct capital outlay, including "Suspense" from the commencement of operations to the end of December 1905, amounted to Rs. 9,03,441 ; and, excluding "Suspense," to Rs. 8,81,792, which gives an average of Rs. 29,150 per mile open. The gross earnings for the year ending 31st December 1905 amounted to Rs. 78,600 and the working expenses to Rs. 73,142, showing a net *earning* of Rs. 2,458, against a *loss* of Rs. 3,840 in the previous year. The result was due to an increase of fares to and from Moriani station, and to the carriage of materials for the Special Works division at Jorhat.

Tezpur-Balipara Railway.

649. Gauge 2′-6″. The total capital outlay amounted to Rs. 4,87,240, giving an average of Rs. 24,362 per mile open. The gross earnings for the year were Rs. 1,03,379 to which may be added the subsidy of Rs. 5,000 paid by the Tezpur Local Board. The working expenses amounted to Rs. 76,298, which left a profit of 6·58 per cent. on the capital outlay. The increase is due to the favourable tea crop in the district.

Dibru-Sadiya Railway.

650. Gauge 3′-3⅜″. The total capital outlay on this line up to 31st December 1905 amounted to Rs. 87,31,147, the cost per mile, exclusive of suspense, being Rs. 1,10,724. The percentage of net earnings on capital outlay was 4·94, against 4·84 in the previous year. The mean mileage of the Ledo and Tikak-Margherita Colliery branch worked during the year was 8·50 miles. The total capital cost to the end of the year was Rs. 16,78,156. The percentage of net earnings to capital cost was 1·62 only, against ·79 in the previous year.

Other Railways. Dwara-Therria Railway.

651. The line is 19·50 miles in length on 2′-6″ gauge. Its construction was sanctioned in 1902. There being no expenditure on the capital account during the year, the total outlay remained unchanged. Work has been suspended for want of funds. The Managing Director hopes to proceed with it shortly.

Assam-Bengal Railway.

652. Gauge 3′-3⅜″. The open mileage of the main line up to 31st December 1905 was 740·38 miles and of the Noakhali Railway (3′-3⅜″) 34·90 miles. The Noakhali (Bengal) Railway was purchased by the State and merged in the Assam-Bengal Railway.

Eastern Bengal State Railway. Bengal-Duars Railway.

653. The open mileage of the metre-gauge sections of the line in this province up to 31st December 1905 was 545·72 miles.

654. Gauge 3′-3⅜″. The open mileage of the main line at the close of the year was 36·40 miles, and of the extensions 116·56 miles.

655. The following lines were under construction :—

Lines under construction.

(1) 19 miles from Akhaura, a station on the main line of the Assam-Bengal Railway, to Chartola or Ashuganj on the Megna river, opposite Bhairab Bazar.

(2) 151 miles from Golakganj, a station on the Kaunia-Dhubri Extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, to Gauhati. The line is not expected to be ready for opening before January 1908. The total capital outlay up to 31st December 1905 was Rs. 45,40,600.

(3) 105 miles from Godagari, on the left bank of the Ganges, opposite Lalgola, the terminal station of the Murshidabad branch, to Katihar, the junction station of the Bengal North-Western Railway and the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The total capital outlay up to 31st December 1905 amounted to Rs. 25,60,000.

The construction of (1) has been undertaken by the Assam-Bengal Railway and of (2) and (3) by the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

Certain concessions were granted to the Scottpur Tea Company for the construction of a private tramway to connect its gardens from Majargram through Pallarband to Chandrapurghat on the Barak river.

ESTABLISHMENT.

656. The total charges for Public Works establishment amounted to Rs. 5,86,828, including a sum of Rs. 5,846 debited to contribution works. For the execution of Imperial Military and Civil works, a charge of 23 per cent. on the cost of the work is made, the amount charged being Rs. 27,534, which is not included in the above. The cost of Public Works establishment, Rs. 5,86,828, and that of Local Fund establishment, Rs. 90,767, comes to 22·70 per-cent. and 13·29 per cent. of the cost of the works carried out by the Public Works Department and Local Board agency, respectively. Works to the amount of Rs. 2,26,517 were carried out in the hill districts by civil officers.

The expenditure on Local Fund establishment, amounting to Rs. 90,767, includes a sum of Rs. 17,480 contributed by the Boards, at the rate of 2 per cent. on all Local Fund expenditure for compilation of the Local Fund accounts in the Executive Engineers' offices.

The remaining cost of establishment, *viz.*, Rs. 5,80,982, was debited to Provincial works, and amounts to a percentage of 23·57 on the cost of the works carried out. All the Imperial and Provincial works were supervised by the Executive Engineers of the Public Works Department, except the works in the Lushai Hills, on which Rs. 1,21,758 were expended by the Superintendent with his district staff. Works, amounting to Rs. 1,07,838, were carried out in remote parts of the hill districts by civil officers, and, in certain parts of the Goalpara district, by the Deputy Conservator of Forests. Local Fund works to the value of Rs. 19,602 were executed by the Public Works Department officers, while the establishment under the Boards carried out works to the value of Rs. 6,63,157, the total Local Fund expenditure on works being Rs. 6,82,759.

CHAPTER V—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

(a) GROSS REVENUE.

657. The receipts and expenditure of the province during 1905-1906, including approximate Eastern Bengal figures before the partition, were as follows:—

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Principal Heads of Revenue—				
I.—Land Revenue	78,39,830	1,12,04,690	...	1,90,44,520
II.—Opium	6,04,802	...	...	6,04,802
III.—Salt	18,47,675	...	...	18,47,675
IV.—Stamps	43,80,039	43,80,040	...	87,60,079
V.—Excise	32,88,143	29,19,989	...	62,08,132
VI.—Provincial Rates	...	16,17,129	23,58,734	39,75,863
VII.—Customs	77,493	...	...	77,493
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	6,61,092	3,04,158	...	9,65,250
IX.—Forests	7,03,512	5,28,584	...	12,32,096
X.—Registration	37,805	7,19,559	...	7,57,364
XI.—Tributes from Native States	50,285	...	...	50,285
Total A.—Principal Heads of Revenue	1,94,90,676	2,16,74,149	23,58,734	4,35,23,559
B.—Interest—				
XII.—Interest	44	26,230	4,039	30,313
C.—Post Office—				
XIII.—Post Office	...	...	1,974	1,974
D.—Receipts by Civil Departments—				
XVIA.—Law and Justice—				
Courts of Law	...	3,36,664	...	3,36,664
XVIB.—Law and Justice—				
Jails	...	3,02,089	...	3,02,089
XVII.—Police	...	1,91,649	2,88,300	4,79,949
XVIII.—Marine	...	30,252	...	30,252
XIX.—Education	...	2,20,900	52,725	2,73,625
XX.—Medical	...	15,308	18,466	33,774
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	...	601	50,284	50,885
Total D.—Receipts by Civil Departments ...	...	10,97,463	4,09,775	15,07,238
E.—Miscellaneous Civil Receipts—				
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation, etc. ...	45,128	13,605	...	58,733
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	4,570	15,929	1,098	21,597
XXV.—Miscellaneous	19,170	4,06,212	73,721	4,99,103
Total E.—Miscellaneous	68,868	4,35,746	74,819	5,79,433
Carried over	1,95,59,588	2,32,33,588	28,49,341	4,56,42,517

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward	1,95,59,588	2,32,33 588	28,49,341	4,56,42,517
H.—Railways—				
XXVI.—State Railways (Gross receipts)	...	85,825	...	85,825
J.—Irrigation—				
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation	...	...	15,077	15,077
K.—Other Public Works—				
XXXI.—Military Works	6,215	...	...	6,215
XXXII.—Civil Works	1,251	2,08,962	3,94,976	6,05,189
Total K.—Other Public Works	7,466	2,03,962	3,94,976	6,11,404
Adjusting Heads—				
Contribution between Provincial and Local	...	26,569	15,21,990	15,48,559
Transfer between Local and Local	...	...	450	450
Total Adjusting Heads	...	26,569	15,22,440	15,49,009
Grand Total	1,95,67,054	2,35,54,944	47,81,834	47,90,38,320

Expenditure.

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct Demands on the Revenue—				
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	43,624	33,766	932	78,322
2.—Assignments and Compensations...	1,25,489	45,972	...	1,71,461
3.—Land Revenue	9,14,953	20,56,495	...	29,71,448
5.—Salt	19,687	...	...	19,687
6.—Stamps	1,43,595	1,42,594	...	2,86,189
7.—Excise	1,00,177	83,717	...	1,83,894
8.—Provincial Rates	...	36,678	1,00,628	1,37,306
9.—Customs	34,092	...	...	34,092
10.—Assessed Taxes	17,561	6,491	...	24,052
11.—Forests	3,83,934	2,86,976	...	6,70,910
12.—Registration	21,423	4,01,562	...	4,22,985
Total Direct Demands on Revenue	18,04,535	30 94,251	1,01 560	50,00,346
B.—Interest—				
13.—Interest on ordinary debts	...	3,372	...	3,372
14.—Interest on other obligations	736	...	3,920	4,656
Total B.—Interest	736	3,372	3,920	8,028
Carried over	18,05,271	30,97,623	1,05,480	50,08,374

Heads of Accounts.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward	18,05,271	30,97,623	1,05,480	50,08,374
C.—Post Office, Telegraph and Mints—				
15.—Post Office	...	...	1,48,748	1,48 748
D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments—				
18.—General Administration	1,04,948	7,33,894	1,11,068	9,49,910
19A.—Law and Justice—Courts of Law	...	36,42,452	78	36,42,530
19B.—Law and Justice—Jails	...	8,31,650	...	8,31,650
20.—Police	...	33,04,061	36,631	33,40,692
21.—Marine	...	1,06,575	9,340	1,15,915
22.—Education	...	9,34,512	10,82,311	20,16,823
23.—Ecclesiastical	22,697	...	...	22,697
24.—Medical	...	6,65,428	2,91,829	9,57,257
25.—Political	...	80,626	...	80,626
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	4,607	75,504	59,714	1,39,825
Total D.—Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments ...	1,32,252	1,03,74,702	15,90,971	1,20,97,925
E.—Miscellaneous Charges—				
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions	4,951	...	...	4,951
28.—Civil Furlough and Absentee Allowances... ...	301	...	...	301
29.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ...	228	5,89,262	9,587	5,99,077
30.—Stationery and Printing	...	2,09,075	14,557	2,23,632
32.—Miscellaneous	25,118	1,45,910	35,965	2,06,993
Total E.—Miscellaneous	30,598	9,44,247	60,109	10,34,954
F.—Famine Relief and Insurance—				
33.—Famine Relief	...	...	...	...
H.—Railway Revenue Accounts—				
38.—State Railway Working Expenses	...	72,246	...	73,246
41.—Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure	...	...	...	...
Total H.—Railway Revenue Accounts	...	73,246	...	73,246
J.—Irrigation—				
43.—Minor Works and Navigation	...	2,385	187	2,572
K.—Other Public Works—				
44.—Military Works	61,841	...	...	61,841
45.—Civil Works	87,957	38,19,711	23,37,050	62,44,718
45A.—Construction of Railways charged to Provincial or Local Revenues.	...	1,014	...	1,014
Total K.—Other Public Works	1,49,798	38,20,725	23,37,050	63,07,573
Adjusting Heads—				
Contribution between Provincial and Local	...	15,21,990	26,569	15,48,559
Transfer between Local and Local	...	...	450	450
Total Adjusting Heads	...	15,21,990	27,019	15,49,009
Grand Total...	21,17,919	1,98,34,918	42,69,564	2,62,22,401

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure.

	1904-1905.			1905-1906.			1904-1905.			
	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts or net expenditure.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net receipts or net expenditure.	Increase of revenue.	Decrease of revenue.	Increase of expenditure.	Decrease of expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I(*a*). Principal Heads of Revenue	4,23,83,549	47,95,779	+ 3,75,87,770	4,35,23,559	50,00,346	+3,85,23,213	11,40,010	...	2,04,567	...
II. Departmental Heads—										
(*b*) Interest	37,661	20,789	+ 16,872	30,313	8,028	+ 22,285	...	7,348	...	12,761
(*c*) Post Office, etc. ...	6,000	1,61,018	— 1,55,018	1,974	1,48,748	— 1,46,774	...	4,026	...	12,270
(*d*) Civil Departments ...	13,83,528	1,15,08,232	—1,01,24,704	15,07,238	1,20,97,925	—1,05,90,687	1,23,710	...	5,89,693	...
(*e*) Miscellaneous ...	3,68,856	10,67,441	— 6,98,585	5,79,433	10,34,954	— 4,55,521	2,10,577	...	...	32,487
(*f*) Famine Relief and Insurance.	...	117	— 117	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
(*h*) Railway Revenue Accounts	75,720	81,672	— 5,95[illegible]	85,825	73,246	+ 12,579	10,105	...	...	8,426
(*i*) Irrigation	17,000	...	+ 17,000	15,077	2,572	+ 12,505	...	1,923	2,572	...
(*k*) Other Public Works ...	5,40,238	45,67,191	— 40,26,903	6,11,404	63,07,573	— 56,96,169	71,116	...	17,40,382	...
Adjusting Heads	8,57,059	8,57,059	...	15,49,009	15,49,009	...	6,91,950	...	6,91,950	...
Total Departmental Heads ...	32,86,112	1,82,63,519	—1,49,77,407	43,80,273	2,12,22,055	16,841,782	11,07,458	13,297	30,24,597	66,061
Grand Total	4,56,69,661	2,30,59,298	+2,26,10,363	4,79,03,832	2,62,22,401	+ 2,16.81,431	22,47,468	13,297	32,29,164	66,061

Receipts. 658. The total receipts of the year, excluding receipts on account of State Railways were Rs. 22,34,171 in excess of the receipts of 1904-1905. The bulk of the increase occurred under Land Revenue (3,44,000), Stamps (4,05,000), Excise (4,33,000), Provincial rates (60,000), Forest (1,30,000), Jails (68,000), Police (55,000), Miscellaneous (2,06,000) and contributions from Provincial to Local (7,03,000). Salt and Customs revenues were smaller by Rs. 2,06,000 and Rs. 95,000, respectively.

Expenditure. 659. Excluding all Railway expenditure and contributions between Provincial and Local, the total expenditure of the province amounted to Rs. 2,45,99,132, which is Rs. 24,71,153 in excess of the corresponding figures for 1904-1905. The more important increases occurred under Land Revenue (2,34,000), General Administration (2,77,000), Jails (69,000), Police (1,48,000), Education (1,06,000), and Other Public Works (17,40,000).

Land Revenue. The increase of Rs. 2,35,000 in expenditure under the head "Land Revenue" was distributed as follows:—

Survey and settlement.—There was a decrease of Rs. 30,000 in the expenditure on the Bakarganj and Faridpur settlement operations, but an increase of Rs. 25,000 under other items. The cost of traverse work done by the Provincial Survey Detachment of Assam, which was adjusted in the books of the Comptroller, India Treasuries, in previous years, has been adjusted in the accounts of this province in 1905-1906, under orders of the Government of India.

Charges of District Administration.—The increase of Rs. 1,01,000 occurred entirely in Eastern Bengal. But no explanation can be furnished, as it has not been possible to obtain figures of undoubted accuracy.

Charges on account of Land Revenue Collections.—The increase of Rs. 50,000 is due to the extension of the mauzadari system in Assam.

Land Records and Agriculture.—The increase of Rs. 15,000 occurred partly under supervisor kanungos and district mandals and partly under salaries and establishments of the Director of Land Records.

General Administration. The increase of Rs. 2,77,000, as compared with the actuals of 1904-1905, and an excess of Rs. 2,16,000 over the budget grant for the year under the head "General

Administration," were due to the extra charges necessitated by the constitution of the new province. The details by minors heads are shown below in round figures :—

Minor Heads.	Actuals, 1904-1905.	Budget, 1905-1906.	Actuals, 1905-1906.	Difference with 1904-1905.	Difference with Budget, 1905-1906.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor...	49,000	50,000	67,000	+ 18,000	+ 17,000
Staff and household of Lieutenant-Governor.	13,000	18,000	72,000	+ 59,000	+ 54,000
Tour Expenses	10,000	6,000	22,000	+ 12,000	+ 16,000
Civil Secretariats	1,32,000	1,28,000	1,92,000	+ 60,000	+ 64,000
Board of Revenue	...	...	61,000	+ 61,000	+ 61,000
Commissioners	2,55,000	2,98,000	2,82,000	+ 27,000	— 16,000
Civil Officer of Account and Audit, Imperial.	54,000	64,000	1,05,000	+ 51,000	+ 41,000
Ditto, Provincial	...	...	— 5,000	— 5,000	— 5,000
Ditto, Local	15,000	15,000	15,000	...	...
Inspector General of Excise, Registration.	53,000	55,000	43,000	— 10,000	— 12,000
General Establishment of Local Funds	92,000	1,00,000	96,000	+ 4,000	— 4,000
Total	6,73,000	7,34,000	9,50,000	+ 2,77,000	+ 2,16,000

The Budget Estimate under Commissioners included Rs. 41,500 for a steam-launch for the Commissioner of Dacca, only Rs. 22,343 of which was spent. This excess provision was therefore sufficient to meet the cost of the Commissioner appointed for Surma Valley after the partition.

(*b*) IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Section 1.—Land Revenue.

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1905-1906.]

Classification and statistics of estates Permanently-settled estates.

660. There were in the province during the year 116,683 permanently-settled estates with a revenue demand of Rs. 98,13,454. The number of estates showed an increase of 204, which was due chiefly to partitions. The revenue, on the other hand, decreased by Rs. 544. Transfers of some estates to another class, abatements given for land acquired, and the removal of estates from the revenue roll account for this decrease. Most of the permanently-settled estates lie in East Bengal.

Temporarily-settled estates.

661. The total number of estates settled temporarily in Eastern Bengal and in the Hill Districts was 10,493. The estates in Eastern Bengal showed a decrease of 5, which was nominal, and occurred in Jalpaiguri, where certain tea estates were amalgamated. The revenue in that portion of the province, however, increased from Rs. 7,72,488 to Rs. 7,81,560. This increase was mainly the result of resettlements.

The total area settled for ordinary cultivation in Assam amounted to 76,50,516 bighas, or 96,599 bighas more than in the previous year. This increase was contributed chiefly by Cachar (73,759), Sylhet and Sibsagar districts, and was due to the expansion of cultivation generally, but by far the greater part of the increase in Cachar was more apparent than real, as the figures include a reclassification of an area of 61,316 bighas of *jangalburi* lands now shown under ordinary cultivation. The area relinquished covered 342,173 bighas. The bulk of abandonments took place in the Assam Valley. The revenue increased from Rs. 48,72,826 to Rs. 49,28,863.

The area, which is held direct from Government by time-expired tea-garden coolies, increased by 34,125 bighas, and reached the total of 3,52,950. Other immigrants have only taken up 95,531 bighas. A noticeable feature of the year was the increased settlement of Nepalese in Lakhimpur, Darrang, and the Barpeta subdivision of the district of Kamrup.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Estates held direct by Government.

662. There were 1,538 khas estates in Eastern Bengal covering an area of 48,38,261 bighas, and with a revenue of Rs. 21,13,380. Both the number of estates and the revenue showed an increase, which was due to auction purchases and resumptions.

Demand and Collections.

663. The current demand of the year was Rs. 1,84,50,918 and the arrear demand Rs. 7,65,249. The total collections, current and arrear, amounted to Rs. 1,82,28,036, or 94·86 per cent. on the total demand of Rs. 1,92,16,167. The result was not so good as in the previous year, owing to the partial failure of crops and the consequent suspension of payments allowed in Government estates. The remissions, Rs. 83,578, represented ·42 per cent. of the total demand, while the irrecoverable part of the balance represented ·80 per cent.

SOURCES OF IMPERIAL REVENUE OTHER THAN THE LAND.

SECTION 2.—Customs.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Customs Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1905-1906.]

Revenue from Customs.

664. The marginal statement shows the gross and net customs duty, inclusive of the duty on imported salt, realized in the province in each of the past two years. There was a decrease of Rs. 2,99,660 in the net duty, as compared with the previous year. The largest decrease (Rs. 2,25,412) occurred in the duty on salt realized at Narayanganj, which, apart from the reduction of the duty on salt, was probably due to the high price of food-grains during the latter part of the year, as well as to the political agitation and boycott of foreign goods. There was a net increase of over 12 per cent. in the aggregate sea-borne trade of the province. In foreign trade the rise in value was 6·5 per cent. and in the coasting trade 26 per cent. The largest increase was nearly 60 per cent. in Indian exports to other parts in the country, almost the whole of which was due to a larger export of jute.

	1904-1905.	1905-1906.
	Rs.	Rs.
Import duty (excluding duty on salt)	40,345	36,001
Import duty on salt ...	19,37,051	17,36,200*
Export duty	1,22,875	31,966
Total gross duty ...	21,00,271	18,04,167
Refunds and drawbacks.		
Imports	131	21
Exports	2,636	6,302
Total	2,767	6,323
Total net duty	20,97,504	17,97,844

* Includes Rs. 1,02,267 paid into the Calcutta Customs House.

Receipts and charges.

665. The total receipts of the Chittagong port amounted to Rs. 10,85,353 and the disbursements to Rs. 49,328, giving a net income of Rs. 10,36,025. Both the revenue and expenditure showed a decrease, the former by Rs. 68,273 and the latter by Rs.3,960. The large fall in the revenue was due to the fact that the export and import duties realized during the year were much smaller. The expenditure at Narayanganj was Rs. 669-8-8.

Offences under the Customs Act or under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act.

666. There were no fines and confiscations owing to infringement of Customs Act during the year, nor were there any cases under the Merchandise Marks Act.

Miscellaneous matters.

667. The number of customs documents dealt with increased from 7,211 to 7,572, or by 361. The duty bills of entry on bonded salt and miscellaneous goods rose from 2,216 to 2,478, free bills of entry from 2,218 to 2,402, and free shipping bills from 2,642 to 2,649. The duty shipping bills, on the other hand, fell from 135 to 43. There was an increase in the amount of stamp duty levied from Rs. 1,279 to Rs. 1,330.

SECTION 3.—Opium.

668. The cost price of opium sold in the Excise Department is credited to this head. The receipts on account of opium amounted to Rs. 6,04,802, against Rs. 5,89,178 in the preceding year.

SECTION 4—Salt.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Salt Department during the year 1905-1906.]

Administration.

669. The administration of the Salt Department in the Eastern and Northern Bengal districts was transferred to the Board of Revenue of this province with effect from the 16th October 1905, but by arrangement with the Government of Bengal the preventive operations were controlled from Bengal during the year. In the Assam districts there were no transactions in non-duty paid salt.

Stocks and clearances.

670. The stocks of salt held at the commencement of the year in all *golas*, both public and private, were over $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of maunds more than on the 1st April 1904, but the quantity of salt imported during the year was nearly a lakh less. The clearances were larger than those of the previous year by more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. After allowing for wastage, the closing balance stood at 445,574 maunds.

Imports.

671. In the political agitation, which followed the formation of the new province, salt played an important part. Every attempt was made to induce buyers to purchase the *deshi* (country) or *karkatch* salt in preference to the European, with the result that the importation of this article from abroad decreased by nearly 5 per cent. It is noticeable that, while the imports from the United Kingdom and Germany declined by 68·4 and 42·3 per cent., respectively, those from Aden increased by 92·74 per cent., the reason being that importers were told that Aden is considerad to be a part of India.

Sales of imported salt from shipboard and from bond.

672. There was, however, an increase of 7·13 per cent. in the sales of imported salt. Thi increase was largely due to the reduction of duty made towards the close of the year. 2·41 per cent., was sold from shipboard and 67·59 per cent. from bond. The corresponding proportions in the preceding year were 6·89 and 93·11.

Inland bonded warehouses.

673. There were altogether 28 private bonded warehouses open: one new warehouse at Dacca was licensed, and one at Ashuganj was closed. The quantity of salt, despatched to these warehouses direct from shipboard and from the *golas* in Calcutta, amounted to 13,07,871 maunds, or 8·98 per cent. less than in the previous year. The quantity of non-duty salt, despatched from Chittagong to Narayanganj and Bakarganj, also declined by 31·05 per cent.

Inland transport of duty-paid salt.

674. Duty-paid salt is conveyed for distribution in the different districts by water and by rail. No information is available as to the quantity conveyed by rail, but 12,57,707 maunds were brought into this province by water from Calcutta.

Consumption in Eastern Bengal and Assam.

675. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in the entire province, exclusive of what was introduced from Calcutta by rail, was 31,97,199 maunds, giving an average consumption per head of 4 seers and 3 chittaks. The corresponding average for the districts of Chittagong, Noakhali, and Bakarganj, which are within the Salt Law limits, was 5 seers 13 chittaks.

Prices of salt.

676. The average wholesale price of salt for the whole province was Rs. 2-9-2 per maund, against Rs. 3-0-10 in 1904-1905 and Rs. 3-2-6 in 1903-1904. Compared with 1904-1905, the fall amounted to less than 8 annas which represents the reduction in the duty, but this is probably accounted for by the higher price of salt as sold from the ship's side in Calcutta. There is every reason to believe that retail buyers have benefited largely by the decrease in the salt duty.

Preventive operations in the salliferous districts.

677. In Chittagong, operations for the prevention and suppression of the illicit manufacture of salt were carried on, as in previous years, under the immediate supervision of the Collector of the district, who has been vested with the powers of an Assistant Salt Commissioner under the Indian Salt Act of 1882. In accordance with a scheme of the Salt Commissioner, Bengal, sanctioned by the Government of India in September 1905, preventive operations were begun in Noakhali in October, and by the end of November a staff, consisting of 1 Inspector, 2 Sub-Inspectors, 4 Jamadars and 40 peons, was appointed. This staff is under the direct supervision of the Collector, who, like the Collector of Chittagong, has been vested with the powers of an Assistant Commissioner. There was no preventive force in Bakarganj.

Attachments, releases, confiscations and offences.

678. Illicit salt was attached, released, and confiscated in 18, 1, and 17 cases, respectively, against 26, *nil*, and 26 cases in the previous year, to the extent of 287 maunds, 30 seers, and 286 maunds, against 28 maunds, *nil*, and 28 maunds in 1904-1905. There were 41 prosecutions under the Salt Laws, the majority of the cases being instituted in Bakarganj for importing *karkatch* salt from non-saliferous tracts for sale in that district without any *atrafee rawana* (*i.e.*, a written or printed permission to convey salt beyond the limit of the police station within which it is stored), at a time when the *Swadeshi* agitation was specially active. Thirty-four persons were arrested and brought to trial under the Salt Act, of whom 29 were convicted.

Receipts and charges.

679. The financial results of the year, as compared with those of 1904-1905, show a decrease of Rs. 6,31,833, or 17·61 per cent., in the receipts and of Rs. 5,868, or 14·33 per cent., in the charges, giving a net revenue of Rs. 29,20,544, which is less than that of the previous year by Rs. 6,25,965, or 17·65 per cent.

SECTION 5.—Excise.

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906.]

Administration.

680. Unlike the 14 districts transferred from Bengal, where Excise administration was vested in the Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, the Department was, before the 16th of October 1905, controlled, in the 6 Assam Valley districts, by the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Division, and, in the Surma Valley and hill districts, by the Chief Commissioner of Assam direct. Since that date, the whole province has been placed under a Commissioner of Excise, who, in his administration of the hill districts, is controlled by Government and, in his administration of the plains districts, by the Board of Revenue.

Plains Districts.

Demand, collections and expenditure.

681. The total Excise revenue demand for the year increased from Rs. 57,31,399 to Rs. 61,59,420. There was an increase under nearly every head. The largest increase occurred under the head "*Ganja*," being Rs. 2,57,658. Opium came next, with an increase of Rs. 80,119, followed by country spirits and imported liquor, which yielded an increase of Rs. 77,108 and Rs. 1,43,617, respectively. The collections, excluding advances for 1906-1907, amounted to Rs. 61,56,565, or over 99 per cent., and the total expenditure of the Department to Rs. 1,93,214. The proportion of expenditure to total collection was 3·13 per cent.

The current settlements.

682. The resettlements for 1906-1907 showed a net increase of some half a lakh of rupees, country spirit contributing the largest share (Rs. 60,000). The *Swadeshi* movement was largely responsible for the decrease in the revenue from imported liquor in Bakarganj.

Country spirits.

683. The manufacture and sale of country spirits were carried on in the province under three systems—the central distillery system, the outstill system, and the contract distillery system, which was introduced in the latter half of the year. The central distillery system is in force in the whole of the Dacca Division, the contract distillery system was confined to the Sibsagar district, while the outstill system was in force throughout the rest of the province, except the hill districts of Assam. The total revenue realised during the year from country spirit amounted to Rs. 17,04,065, against Rs. 16,19,751 in the previous year, showing an increase of 5·2 per cent. Seventy-nine per cent. of the revenue was contributed by the outstill and 21 by the distillery systems.

Central Distilleries.

684. There was an increase of Rs. 10,128, or 5·2 per cent., in license fees under the central distillery system, but the number of licenses remained unchanged.

The materials used in manufacture at the central distillery were cane, date, *gur*, and *mahua*. The best results were obtained from the Dacca distillery, where *gur* was principally used, and they were considered by Major Bedford, who made a special enquiry at this distillery, to be excellent. At the same time, under the central distillery system there is no guarantee as to the purity of the spirit which reaches the consumers from the hands of the retail vendors, who can manipulate it as they please without check. The remedy for this is to be found in the extension of the contract distillery system, but the consideration of this question has been postponed till the report of the Excise Commission is received.

Contract distillery system.

685. Under this system, the distillery buildings and water-supply are furnished by the Government, and the contractor—to whom a monopoly for the supply of liquor to the vendors of a specified area is granted—provides the fermenting vats, the stills, and all other necessary apparatus. The manufacture and retail vend are rigidly separated, and the contractor's functions end with the supply of liquor of specified strength to the retail vendors. The latter purchase at auction the right of retail vend, paying to Government the still-head duty and (on behalf of the contractor) the cost price of the liquor as settled between the contractors and the Government. The advantages of this system are obvious. A thoroughly wholesome liquor of constant composition and appearance is secured. The detection of smuggling from outside areas is facilitated, and, with fairly large central distilleries, it is easier to secure properly-trained and reliable supervising staff.

A central distillery under this system was started from the 1st October 1905 at Jorhat, with two depôts at Golaghat and Nazira. The rate of duty on spirit issued from this distillery has been fixed at Rs. 2-8 per L. P. gallon, and the sanctioned strengths at which spirit is issued are 20° U. P. and 60° U. P. on which the duty works out to Rs. 2 per gallon of 20° U. P. and Re. 1 per gallon of 60° U. P. spirit. The cost price at the distillery and at the depôts is Re. 1-4 per gallon of the higher strength and 10 annas per gallon of the lower. The contractors have to pay a distillery fee of

1 anna 6 pies and a water-rate of 3 pies per L. P. gallon spirit issued from the distillery, and are bound, in consideration of an average rate of carriage calculated at 6 pies per gallon of 60° U. P. and forming part of the cost price of 10 annas, to keep a sufficient stock of spirit in these depôts. The minimum retail price of liquor has been fixed at 6 annas per bottle of 8 drams with a limit of sale of 3 bottles to any one person in a day. The prevailing retail rate is 8 annas a bottle of 60° U. P. The total taxation on country spirit issued from the distillery works out to 4·22 rupees per L. P. gallon, which is probably slightly higher than the rate of taxation on the outstill liquor previously consumed in this area. The number of retail shops is 31, which is one less than the number of outstills in existence in the first half of the year. Four of these are settled with the managers of tea gardens.

The revenue from country spirits in the Sibsagar district during the year rose by Rs. 15,824 (Rs. 1,30,922 against Rs. 1,15,098) and was made up as follows:—

	Rs.
1st half-year—	
Outstill revenue	44,152
2nd half-year—	
Retail license fees	22,392
Duty	51,300
Distillery fees	1,820
Advance fees for 1906-1907...	11,258
Total ...	1,30,922

Outstills.

So far as Government is concerned, the financial results under the new system have proved satisfactory.

686. The total number of outstills licensed was 554, or 10 less than in the previous year. A good deal of attention was paid to the location of shops on unobjectionable sites, and, in deference to public opinion, six shops were closed in Jalpaiguri. The total revenue from license fees showed a decrease of Rs. 37,295. This decrease was nominal, and was due mainly to receipts for Sibsagar outstills being for only half the year.

Rum.

687. Rum is sold in Bengal under cover of licenses for the sale of distillery spirits and of imported liquors. In Assam a separate license has been taken out for its sale.

The total number of licenses granted during the year was 9, and the revenue, which was derived from license fees entirely, amounted to Rs. 1,368.

Imported liquor.

688. Licenses for the retail sale of imported liquors are sold by auction every three years in the Assam Valley Division and in the Cachar district (except North Cachar subdivision), but in the transferred districts of Bengal they are settled annually. All other licenses for the sale of imported liquor are issued under much the same system throughout the province.

The total number of licenses issued for the sale of imported liquor increased by 10. This increase was due mainly to the inclusion of dâk bungalow licenses in the statistics for Assam.

The total receipts from license fees were Rs. 1,53,649, against Rs. 1,45,038 in the preceding year. The net increase of Rs. 8,611 was due mainly to the increases in the Dacca Division (Rs. 6,563) and in the Chittagong Division (Rs. 3,223). The increased figures of license fees in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions would seem to confirm the view that imported brands are growing in popularity. In some districts this growing competition of imported liquor with country spirit received a severe check from the *Swadeshi* movement, when pressure was put upon licensed vendors to close their shops, but this check is not likely to be more than temporary. The preference given to imported liquor is mainly owing to its cheaper price as compared with country spirit, its more attractive character, and to its being much purer than the ordinary country spirit. The remedial measures suggested for checking its gradual monopoly of the market are (1) heavier taxation, and (2) the reduction in the retail price of country spirit, together with an improvement in its quality by the concentration of manufacture. It would, perhaps, however, be unwise to favour country spirit at the expense of imported liquor by lowering the price of the former and increasing taxation on the latter, until means can be devised for improving the quality of country spirit and placing it, so far as purity and wholesomeness goes, at least on a level with imported liquor.

Tari.

689. The total receipts on account of license fees (both for fermented and unfermented *tari*) were Rs. 26,242, and the number of licenses issued was 1,561.

The question of the abuse of fresh *tari* licenses by illegally selling fermented *tari* and the introduction of the Madras system of lining pots with fresh lime to check fermentation, as suggested by the Excise Committee, was the subject of enquiry in the province during the year.

Pachwai.

690. In the districts of Eastern Bengal not only is the manufacture and retail sale of *pachwai* permitted by licenses granted ordinarily under the auction system, but home brewing of this kind of liquor for domestic consumption is also allowed in the case of aboriginal tribes, such as Dhangars, Kols, Koches, Mundas, Garos, Hajangs, and Santhals, etc., by licenses issued to village headmen.

The total number of licenses issued in the year was 3,970, against 4,041 in the preceding year. The total revenue realised rose from Rs. 29,656 to Rs. 31,210. The principal variations were an increase of Rs. 1,544 in Rajshahi and of Rs. 498 in Dinajpur. The Dacca Division showed a decrease of Rs. 627. There is no limit to the number of families which a headman's license should include, so that variations in revenue depend not so much upon the number of licenses issued as upon the number of families actually covered by each license.

Methylated spirits.

691. Licenses for the sale of methylated spirits are issued free. Only 12 licenses were issued during the year, but there can be no doubt that the rules about taking out licenses for the sale of the spirit are not strictly enforced in the province.

The statistics of sale are quite inaccurate. So far as is known, only small quantities are imported from Calcutta firms by local dealers for retail sale. No methylating operations are performed at any place in this province.

Bhang and Majum.

692. There were 22 retail licenses for the sale of *bhang* and 55 druggists' permits, making a total of 77. The number of *majum* licenses (3) remained the same. A shop for the retail sale of *bhang* was opened in Maulvi Bazar subdivision, Sylhet, and there was one *bhang* shop in Cachar, as in the previous year. There are no shops in the Assam Valley. The extensive growth of wild *ganja* in Assam makes it difficult entirely to stop its illegal use. The total revenue obtained from *bhang* and *majum* was Rs. 4,563.

Charas.

693. *Charas* is practically unknown in Assam, and its use in the transferred districts is extremely limited. The total receipts on account of license fees were Rs. 2,672.

Ganja.

694. The total receipts from *ganja* increased from Rs. 15,18,695 to Rs. 17,72,030 Every district contributed to the increase, which is attributed to better settlements of shops and the introduction of a uniform rate of duty of Rs. 11 a seer in place of the different rates from Rs. 6 to Rs. 12 a seer, according to their supposed narcotic value.

Retail licenses and number of warehouses for wholesale vend.

There were 1,160 shops for the retail sale of the drug in the province, or three shops more than in the preceding year. One new shop was opened in the district of Dinajpur, three shops were closed in the Kamrup district and one in Sylhet as being unimportant. The total number of *golas* in the province for the storage of *ganja* for issue to retail vendors was 150.

The total quantity of *ganja* consumed decreased by 362 maunds 31 seers. This decrease was primarily due to the consolidation of the duties on the four different varieties of *ganja* hitherto manufactured into one all-round duty of Rs. 11, as a result of which *chur ganja*, which contains the smallest amount of refuse, took, to a very large extent, the place of the heavier flat and round varieties. The stocks of this kind, which the *goladars* had in hand, were allowed to be converted into *chur* before issue to the retail vendors. The figures, therefore, furnish no real indication either of a decrease in consumption, or a preference by consumers for *chur ganja*. As the decrease in the number of shops was nominal, and the settlements are generally reported to have been satisfactory, it is probable that the conversion of other kinds into *chur* more than accounts for the apparent decrease, and that, if anything, there was an increase in consumption. In Assam, the district of Sylhet is the most important in respect of *ganja*, as the lower classes of the indigenous population, both Hindus and Muhammadans, are much addicted to the drug. The habit, it is stated, is spreading among the tea-garden coolies in the district, and *ganja* is to a certain extent taking the place of liquor.

The area actually cultivated during the year was only 2,130 *bighas*, which is below the limit of 976 acres fixed by the Government of India. The season was unfavourable and the average outturn of the crop, 1 maund 19 seers per *bigha*, was the lowest on record since 1900-1901. There was a consequent sharp rise in wholesale prices by the end of March, when *chur ganja* was selling at Rs. 130 to Rs. 145 per maund.

Opium.

695. The total number of licenses for the sale of raw opium was reduced by 7. The net decrease of 7 is explained as follows: in Goalpara one shop, which had remained closed during 1904-1905 for want of adequate bid, was settled for the year under report. In Sibsagar, similarly, two shops in sadr and two in Golaghat subdivision were settled. In Kamrup there was a reduction of 6 shops, but of 111 shops sanctioned in 1904-1905, 102 shops were actually settled. On the recommendation of Mr. Melitus, late Commissioner, 15 shops of the sanctioned list were abolished as being too small or too close to others. There remained 96 shops, all of which were settled. In Darrang three shops were abolished for the same reasons. In Nowgong three shops remained closed for want of adequate bids. The only change in Eastern Bengal was the opening of two shops in Dinajpur to meet local demand. The sites of some of the existing shops were changed, so as not unduly to inconvenience consumers.

Druggists' permits were issued in all the districts of Eastern Bengal, except Jalpaipuri, Faridpur, and Bakarganj. There was one druggist's permit in the Assam district of Lakhimpur. Two licenses for the sale of poppy heads were issued in Dacca. The total number of druggists' permits issued for the year was 695, against 640 in the preceding year.

The total receipts from opium and its preparations showed an increase from Rs. 23,66,738 to Rs. 24,55,765. This increase in the revenue was accompanied by a reduction in the number of retail shops by 7. Opium revenue in the Assam Valley Division was roughly 18 lakhs, or three-quarters of the total opium revenue of the province.

The total increase in license fees was Rs. 38,625, to which the Assam Valley Division alone contributed Rs. 31,967.

The total quantity of opium issued from the treasuries during the year amounted to 1,761 maunds 2 seers 7 chittaks, or 45 maunds 27 seers 7 chittaks more than in the previous year. Of this increase, no less than 43 maunds 10 seers 7 chittaks occurred in the Assam Valley Division. The consumption of opium has been steadily increasing in the Assam Valley since 1901-1902, the main causes of increase being a series of good seasons and good public health, following a decade characterised by "bad seasons, earthquakes, floods, and other calamities, *kalá-ázár*, general unhealthiness, and decrease of Assamese population."

In Eastern Bengal, the most important district, so far as opium is concerned, is Chittagong, where there was a decrease of 4 maunds 33 seers in its issue, which is attributed by the Collector to the greater facilities for the supply of the drug allowed by the Government in Burma, which have discouraged the smuggling of excise opium from Chittagong.

Illicit cultivation of poppy.

696. The Government, in their letter No. 4258F., dated the 19th May 1906, prohibited the cultivation of poppy in the North Lakhimpur subdivision and in the jurisdiction of Sadiya, where there were reasons for suspecting illicit cultivation. But, in order to obviate unnecessary hardship to the hill tribes, it was decided that selected village headmen in the Sadiya tract should, with the approval of the Assistant Political Officer, be permitted to purchase one seer at a time for themselves and their co-villagers.

Madak and chandu.

697. It was reported from several districts in Eastern Bengal that the habit of smoking *madak* and *chandu* was gradually decreasing. It is not much known in Assam, except to a small extent in the Surma Valley.

Cocaine.

698. In Assam, where the use of cocaine is confined to purely medicinal purposes, there does not seem at present to be any ground for declaring it to be an exciseable article. In the transferred districts, where its sale is confined under license for *bonâ fide* medicinal purposes, no case of the drug being used as an intoxicant was reported.

Offences against the Excise and Opium Laws.

699. The total number of persons arrested and brought to trial for offences against the Excise and Opium Laws was 846, of whom 696, or 82·2 per cent., were convicted. The cases were mostly of minor importance.

Fines and rewards.

700. The fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs. 15,543, of which Rs. 13,254 were realized. Rupees 13,157, or 84·5 per cent. of the fines imposed, were distributed in rewards.

Hill Districts.

701. The administration of Excise in the hill districts calls for little comment. The total revenue for the year was Rs. 38,512, against Rs. 39,255 in 1904-1905, and the expenditure Rs. 6,435, against Rs. 5,506. It is only in the Khasi Hills, where the manufacture of country spirit is practically uncontrolled, that Excise administration is likely to present any difficulty.

Country spirits.

702. Six shops (Khasi Hills 3, Garo Hills 2, and Naga Hills 1) were settled during the year, against the same number in the preceding year. The revenue demand was Rs. 7,741 and the total collections, including advance for 1906-1907, amounted to Rs. 7,706. The demand in the Khasi Hills was Rs. 4,775, including the Siem's share.

Imported liquor.

703. Altogether seven licenses were in force for the sale of imported liquor. Of the revenue demand, Rs. 1,932, Rs. 1,840 were collected.

Pachwai.

704. One *pachwai* shop was settled at Kohima for Rs. 240.

Ganja.

705. There were two retail shops for the sale of *ganja* in the Garo Hills, 1 each in the Naga and the Lushai Hills. The total demand on account of license fees was Rs. 2,261. The shops fetched lower bids in the Garo and the Lushai Hills. There was a large decrease in the consumption of the drug in the Khasi Hills of 17 seers, and the Deputy Commissioner attributes this to "the transfer from Shillong of the 16th Rajputs, in which regiment there was a larger number of *ganja*-smokers."

Opium.

706. There were seven shops in the Naga, Khasi, and Garo Hills at the commencement of the last year, and one shop was newly opened in the Digar mauza in the Naga Hills district during the year. The total demand on account of license fees was Rs. 6,275, showing an increase of Rs. 707. There was an increase of 10 seers in the issue of opium in the Khasi Hills, attributed to the increase of opium-eaters in the Bhoi country, and an increase of 2 maund 9 seers in the Naga Hills, due to the opening of a new shop.

Miscellaneous.

707. No important case was detected during the year.

SECTION 6.—Stamps.

[*See* Statistics of the Stamp Department in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906 ; also Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section VII.]

Stamp Revenue.

708. The gross revenue collections under the Stamp and Court-Fees Acts amounted to Rs. 87,26,532, compared with Rs. 82,92,289 in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 4,34,243. The increase in receipts occurred under both heads.

The total charges amounted to Rs. 2,21,463 against, Rs. 2,13,248 in 1904-1905. The cost of stamps and plain paper supplied from the Central Depôt was Rs. 1,65,130, against Rs. 1,48,662 in the previous year.

Judicial Stamps.

709. The sale-proceeds of Court-fee stamps, excluding stamps for copies, rose from Rs. 57,04,439 to Rs. 59,90,693. Of this increase, the Dacca Division alone is responsible for Rs. 1,15,342. In that division a large number of civil suits, including some important probate cases, were instituted. There was an increase in the receipts from the sale of stamps for copies and of plain paper. The total receipts under the former head amounted to Rs. 3,52,778, against Rs. 3,48,647 in the previous year, and, under the latter head, to Rs. 1,56,553, an increase of Rs. 3,663.

Non-judicial Stamps.

710. Non-judicial stamps showed an increase of revenue of Rs. 1,40,647. The increase was shared by all classes of stamps except "Share Transfer Stamps" and "One-anna Receipt Stamps," the sale of which showed a decrease from Rs. 118 and Rs. 91,256, respectively, in the previous year to Rs. 28 and Rs. 59,122, respectively.

The revenue derived from the sale of impressed stamps (the most important item among non-judicial stamps) rose from Rs. 18,90,394 to Rs. 20,51,267. This marked increase may be attributed to the execution of a larger number of deeds of the description of bonds and mortgages owing to the high price of food-grains.

The receipts from the sales of hundis or bill-of-exchange stamps were 30,158 or Rs. 6,544 more than in the preceding year. This increase is attributed to the brisk trade in jute.

Notarial stamps are one-rupee foreign bill stamps over-printed with the word "Notarial" under rule 15(*d*) of the rules issued with the Notification of the Government of India, No. 786S.R., dated the 17th February 1899. Sales of these stamps realized Rs. 264, against Rs. 241 during the previous year.

The receipts from the sale of forms for cheques or receipts amounted to Rs. 1,383, against Rs. 1,275 in the previous year.

Stamp vendors.

711. The number of vendors for the sale of stamps during the year was 3,439, showing a decrease, compared with the previous year, of 55, due to the removal of vendors who failed to conform to the rules. The discount allowed exceeded that of the preceding year by Rs. 9,863.

Deficit duty.

712. The enquiries conducted during the year in order to ascertain the correct valuation of estates led to a large increase of revenue in the shape of deficit duty realized. Penalties were not levied in any cases. Of the cases reported, 72·7 per cent. were enquired into, against 74·2 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion borne by the deficit duty realized to the amount originally paid was 90·9, as compared with 58·8 per cent. in the year 1904-1905.

Punitive action of the Courts and Revenue Officers.

713. The total number of cases dealt with by Courts or persons receiving evidence under section 35 of Act II of 1899 fell from 1,227 to 1,207, but the amount of duty and penalty realized by them increased from Rs. 7,811 to Rs. 8,021. On the other hand, there was an increase of 185 in the number of cases dealt with by the Revenue Officers, but a decrease of Rs. 612 in the amount of duty and penalty realized.

The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 70, in which 77 persons were brought to trial, against 49 cases and 61 persons in the preceding year. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 618, against Rs. 459 in 1904-1905. No rewards were given. Statistics of the Jalpaiguri district have not been included, as the stamp registers were destroyed in the fire in the office which occurred in April last.

SECTION 7.—Income-tax.

[*See* Statistical Returns of the working of the Income-Tax Act, II of 1886, in Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906.]

Financial results.

714. The number of persons finally assessed to income-tax increased from 16,368 to 16,566, of whom 1,901 were Government servants. The total demand was Rs. 8,14,602, of which Rs. 12,122 were due on account of penalties and arrears. The receipts amounted to Rs. 9,36,488, an increase of Rs. 3,407, as compared with the previous year. The outstanding balance under all parts of the Act was Rs. 9,937.

The following table shows in an abstract form the collections under the several sources separately, excluding penalties and fines:—

	Number of assessees.	Amount of tax. Rs.
Part I—		
Salaries, etc., paid by Government	1,901	1,27,265
Ditto, paid by local authorities ...	130	4,728
Ditto, paid by Companies, etc., section 9 (1) ...	1,396	1,05,106
Ditto, paid by Companies, section 9 (2) ...	612	42,867
Part II—		
Profits of Companies...	34	4,488
Part III—		
Interest on securities	...	6,370
Part IV—		
Other sources	12,493	6,41,366
Total	16,566	9,32,190
Total of previous year	16,368	9,27,200

Fines and penalties.

715. The demand under the head "Penalties" was Rs. 4,013, of which Rs. 3,669 were realised. No fines were imposed by Magistrates.

Refunds.

716. Refunds made during the year amounted to Rs. 1,312.

Expenditure.

717. The expenditure incurred in the assessment and collection of the tax fell from Rs. 28,210 to Rs. 27,256.

SECTION 8.—Forest Revenue.

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906.]

718. The gross revenue from forests for the year amounted to Rs. 12,54,787 and the expenditure to Rs. 6,75,863. The surplus (Rs. 5,78,924) shows a satisfactory advance, and, with the exception of Goalpara, every division worked at a profit. The divisions showing the largest profits were Lakhimpur (Rs. 1,37,412), Cachar (Rs. 96,004), Jalpaiguri (Rs. 55,596), and Sylhet (Rs. 53,689). In Lakhimpur the bulk of the revenue is derived from produce removed by purchasers, but duty on foreign timber yields nearly half a lakh of rupees. The Cachar revenue is derived mainly from produce removed by purchasers, but in that division drift wood and confiscations yield Rs. 15,044, while the gross revenue is swollen by the inclusion of the revenue of the Manipur forests, three-quarters of which is repaid to the Manipur State. In Jalpaiguri extraction by Government agency yields a satisfactory profit, but the greater part of the revenue is derived from produce removed by purchasers.

Extraction by Government agency was attempted to a considerable extent only in Buxa, Goalpara, Kamrup, Jalpaiguri, and Nowgong. Except in Goalpara these operations yielded a profit. In the Garo Hills, although Rs. 14,706 was spent on the departmental extraction of timber, a revenue of only Rs. 636 was credited on this account to that division.

(c) REVENUE AND FINANCE OTHER THAN IMPERIAL.

SECTION 9.—Provincial Finance.

Year.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1904-1905	27,49,290	75,35,634	78,04,950	24,79,974
1905-1906	24,79,974	2,35,54,944	1,98,34,918	62,00,000

719. A new Provincial Settlement came into force for Assam from the year 1904-1905, under which the principal heads of Revenue and direct demands thereon were divided equally between Imperial and Provincial, and a fixed assignment of 12 lakhs was made from Imperial to Provincial. This settlement came to a close with the year 1905-1906, as a reconsideration of the situation became necessary on the transfer of the Eastern Bengal districts to the new province.

In 1905-1906 the Eastern Bengal portion of the account has been made up in accordance with the terms of the Provincial Settlement with Bengal which allowed the following proportions of Revenue and Expenditure to the Provincial Government:—

Land Revenue Receipts.—One-fourth, except 12 per cent. on collections from Government estates, which was wholly Provincial, and recoveries on account of the large settlement operations, which were wholly Imperial.

Expenditure.—The whole, except expenditure on large survey and record-of-right operations, which was wholly Imperial.

Stamps, Receipts and Expenditure.—One-half.

Excise, Receipts and Expenditure.—Seven-sixteenths.

Provincial Rates.—The whole.

Assessed Taxes.—One-fourth.

Forests.—One-fourth.

Registration.—The whole.

"*Refunds*" *and* "*Assignments, etc.*"—The same share as in the case of the corresponding heads of revenue.

720. The fourteen districts of Eastern Bengal were transferred to the new province in the middle of the year, when it was difficult to make an equitable distribution of the Provincial revenues between the Government of Bengal and this province. The Government of India, therefore, decided that the surplus revenue of that part of the province from 16th October 1905 to 31st March 1906 should be transferred to Bengal through the Land Revenue head, the extra charges of the new province, which are due to the partition, being borne by the Government of Bengal. After taking into account an Imperial contribution of Rs. 5,23,000 for improvement of the Port of Chittagong, this surplus amounts to Rs. 7,34,000.

721. The revenue and expenditure of Eastern Bengal have thus in no way affected the account of the Provincial Services of the new province during 1905-1906. But the Government of India have made a special assignment of Rs. 30,00,000 to augment the resources of the Provincial Government. A further contribution of Rs. 1,53,000 has been made to raise the Provincial balance to Rs. 62,00,000 in order to keep Rs. 50,00,000 at the credit of the Local Government in the commencement of the new Provincial Settlement in addition to the minimum provincial balance which is henceforward to be maintained at Rs. 12,00,000 instead of at Rs. 5,00,000, as it stood for Assam.

722. Besides the two special assignments mentioned above and the fixed adjustment of Rs. 12,00,000, the following Imperial contributions were made in 1905-1906 in aid of the Provincial revenues :—

	Rs.
(i) For Police reorganisation	50,000
(ii) For Primary Education	1,00,000
(iii) For grants to District Boards	1,50,000
(iv) For redistribution of charges under assignments and compensations	17,000
(v) For Collegiate Education	45,000
(vi) For Agricultural and Veterinary improvements	80,000

The Provincial Public Works charges as well as expenditure of the Civil Departments increased in consequence of the partition, and larger contributions were made to the District Funds in Eastern Bengal, and to the Local Boards in Assam for Educational expenditure. Revenue, particularly Stamp and Excise revenue, was much better in both parts of the province.

723. The net Provincial surplus in Eastern Bengal was Rs. 7,64,000, against Rs. 16,89,000 estimated in the Budget, and, in Assam, the surplus amounted to Rs. 37,20,000, against Rs. 2,46,000 in the Budget. The decrease in Eastern Bengal was due to the extra cost of the partition, and the improvement in Assam was mainly due to the special Imperial assignments mentioned above.

SECTION 10.—Local Finance.

724. The following statement shows the receipts and charges of Local Funds during 1905-1906 :—

	Receipts. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
Incorporated Local Funds—		
District Funds	31,84,399	27,52,811
District Road Account	13,884	18,956
Local Boards	14,81,010	14,68,841
Inland Labour Transport Fund	57,474	64,708
District Chaukidari Reward Funds	27,387	34,684
District Post Fund	1,12,567	1,13,605
Total	48,76,721	44,53,605
Excluded Local Funds—		
Municipal Union and Station Funds ...	8,69,413	8,60,432
Town and Bazar Funds	32,193	36,824
Pilgrims Loading House Funds	714	1,975
Chittagong General Hospital Fund	16,079	19,646
Marine Funds (Hospital Port Dues Fund) ...	9,633	9,768
Cantonment Funds	10,945	11,246
Assam Williamson Education Fund... ...	3,978	2,106
Total	9,42,955	9,41,997

The figures include transactions in Bengal prior to the partition. No explanations for variations with the previous year's transactions can be furnished for any but the funds which eixst in Assam only, as Eastern Bengal figures for 1904-1905 are not available in this office. No explanation is therefore attempted.

The receipts and charges of the Cantonment Funds include Rs. 1,939 and Rs. 2,019, respectively, appertaining to the Buxa Duar Cantonment Fund, which does not bank with the treasury but with the Military treasure chest.

SECTION 11.—Road and Public Works Cesses.

725. In Eastern Bengal, Road and Public Works cesses are levied, under Act IX (B. C.) of 1880, on immoveable property in all the districts, except the Chittagong Hill Tracts where the Act is not in force. Both these cesses were, as in the preceding years, levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee. The current demand of land revenue was Rs. 1,23,31,815, and the valuation or gross rental amounted to Rs. 5,66,79,302. The current demand of cesses rose from Rs. 30,73,885 in the previous

year to Rs. 31,15,289, showing an increase of Rs. 41,404, which was due to valuation and revaluations. The total demand, including arrears, was Rs. 34,92,932, of which Rs. 30,98,237, or 99·45 per cent. on the net current demand, was collected and Rs. 2,440 remitted. The outstanding balance was Rs. 4,02, 701, or 11·5 per cent. of the total demand, against 11·1 per cent. in the previous year.

726. In Assam, a local rate is levied on landed property under the Assam Local Rates Regulation. The current demand for the year was Rs. 7,00,696, against Rs. 6,93,889 in the previous year. Inclusive of arrears, the total demand was Rs. 7,74,119, of which Rs. 7,25,026, or 103·47 per cent. on the net current demand, were collected and Rs. 3,230 remitted. The outstanding balance was Rs. 74,721, or 9·6 per cent. of the total demand, against 9·06 in the previous year.

SECTION 12.—Education Cesses.

Nil.

SECTION 13.—Municipal Revenues.

727. The subject of municipal income and expenditure has been discussed in Section 8—Municipal Administration, Chapter III of this Report.

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

SECTION I.—Vital Statistics.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905.]

Climatic conditions.

728. The rainfall was normal in Cachar and Sylhet, but excessive over the lower part of the Brahmaputra Valley and parts of Bengal. Very heavy floods were reported from Kamrup, Goalpara, Mymensingh, and Faridpur (the districts bordering on the banks of the Brahmaputra and the upper portions of the Meghna), which did more or less damage to the crops. A severe epidemic of cholera swept over the lower districts of Bengal, and up into the Brahmaputra Valley as far as Kamrup and the Mangaldai subdivision of Tezpur. It was at its height during the months of October, November, and December, and it seems to have been intimately connected with the unusually heavy floods.

Areas of registration of births and deaths.

729. The total population of the province, according to the last census, was 30,961,459, but the ratios have been calculated on a population of 29,812,735 only, as in certain areas registration is either not attempted or is very imperfect.

Statistics of births and deaths registered.

730. The provincial birth-rate for the year was 39·37 per mille, and the death-rate 35·06. The birth-rate was slightly lower than the rate of the last five years (39·53), but the death-rate was considerably higher than the quinquennial average (31·52), and was chiefly due to the heavy mortality from cholera. In every district except Rajshahi, Pabna, and Faridpur, the birth-rate exceeded the death-rate. Goalpara showed the highest birth-rate (50·70) and Pabna the highest death-rate (45·59).

Statistics of births and deaths in compulsory registration areas.

731. As usual, the results of registration in compulsory areas were imperfect. The birth-rate was as low as 23·40 compared with the quinquennial average of 25·02. It varied from 69·16 in Barpeta to 1·71 in Jhalakati in the Bakarganj district. The death-rate (26·42) for the compulsory (urban) areas was also low. It differed little from the quinquennial average (26·06), but the ratio is probably incorrect. In rural areas, on the other hand, the death-rate for the year was 35·25 per mille. "It is contrary to expectation," says the Sanitary Commissioner, "to find the death-rate in urban areas lower than in rural areas; usually, the mortality rate increases with the density of the population."

The vaccination inspecting staff was the chief agency employed in checking vital statistics, but in Assam the agency was supplemented by the police. One-seventh of the recorded births and one-eighth of the recorded deaths were enquired into, and the results showed that less than one per cent. had escaped registration. Police investigation in Assam showed that the percentage of unrecorded births was 4·36 and of unrecorded deaths 3·98.

Mortality from the chief diseases.

Cholera.

732. The most marked feature of the year was the severe epidemic of cholera which swept over some of the districts of Eastern Bengal and the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Sibsagar, and Sylhet in Assam during the months of October, November, and December. The mortality from this disease alone was 142,312 compared with 61,826 in 1904, and the death-rate per mille was as high as 4·77, or more than double the decennial average. The Sanitary Commissioner attributed the severity of the epidemic to the unusually high floods of the year, and it is a fact that the disease raged with greatest intensity in the districts which border the great waterways, whilst other districts suffered comparatively little.

Fever.

733. The annual death-rate (23·68) from fevers was slightly higher than the decennial average (23·35). The Rajshahi Division is extraordinarily feverish: in six of its seven districts the death-rate from fever was over 30 per mille. This very serious mortality may be ascribed to the waterlogging of the country which has resulted from changes in the river beds, and it constitutes a strong argument for the undertaking of comprehensive schemes of drainage.

Kala-azar.

734. Mortality from *kalá-ázár* continues to show a satisfactory decrease, and only 3,030 deaths were attributed to this cause. Two-thirds of the total number occurred in Sylhet and Darrang, but, in other Assam districts, the mortality was inconsiderable. During the year enquiries were made by Captain James, I.M.S., which, though of brief duration, have added materially to our knowledge of the disease. He concludes that *kalá-ázár* is entirely distinct from malarial fever.

Diarrhœa and dysentery.

735. These diseases accounted for a provincial death-rate of ·85. It is noticeable that the heaviest mortality occurred in the tea districts of the Assam and Surma Valleys,—that is to say, amongst the coolie population of tea gardens. It is not unlikely that the complete change of diet, to which immigrants are subjected, predisposes them to these diseases.

Plague.

736. Six deaths were reported from plague, all of which were imported. Campaigns were undertaken against rats in the towns of Dhubri, Sylhet, and Silchar, with "Commonsense rat exterminator." The reports all showed more or less successful results.

Small-pox.

737. The provincial mortality for the year (·15 per 1,000) was lower than the average for the previous ten years (·23) and that for the previous five years (·27). The rate was not, therefore, unfavourable, considering the difficulty of vaccinating 30 millions of people, and the fact that the operation is only compulsory in the limited municipal areas. The death-rate from this cause was the highest in Kamrup, where it was 2·78 per 1,000 of the population and where it occurred chiefly among the Mahapurushiyas, who refuse to accept vaccination on religious grounds.

Sanitary improvements.

738. The prevalence of malaria is now known to depend largely on the amount of stagnant water in *bhils* and moribund rivers, which afford breeding grounds for the anopheles mosquito. Government has recently sanctioned a scheme for the drainage of the Cheroil swamp in the Pabna district, and the projects for the drainage of the Chalan swamp, and of large tracts lying round Rangpur and Gaibandha are under consideration.

SECTION 2.—Immigration and Labour inspection.

[*See* Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on immigrant labour in the Assam Districts of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1906.]

Statistics of the labour force.

739. This section deals only with labour imported for employment on the Assam tea gardens, in the oil refinery at Digboi, in coal-mines, and in certain saw-mills. Labourers employed on railways and those who migrate to the province during the cold weather for temporary employment, returning to their homes in April or May, are not included. Statistics relating to the immigrant labour of Eastern Bengal districts are also excluded. The total strength at the close of the year was 677,407, showing an increase of 13,111 during the twelve months. The number of adults increased by 7,097.

The steady increase in the importation of fresh labour is satisfactory, all the more so as the number of labourers employed under Act VI showed a decline of 3,201. The number of adults, whose service was not regulated by this Act, increased at the same time by 10,298. Since the 31st December 1901 the number of labourers employed under Act VI has fallen from 108,861 to 76,782, while the total labour force has risen from 644,758 to 677,407. The sexes were equally divided in the total adult labour force, but while women comprised less than 45 per cent. of the Act labourers, they exceeded 51 per cent. of the non-Act labourers. The percentage of children to the total labour force increased slightly from 38·2 to 38·4.

Distribution of the labour force.

740. The Assam Valley employed 61·15 per cent. and the Surma Valley 38·85 per cent. of the total labour force, but the percentage of the Act labourers employed in the Surma Valley was only 3·7 of the total labour force indentured under that Act. On the 30th June 1906 only 18·4 per cent. of the adult labour force was indentured under Act VI.

Provincial figures of immigration.

741. The following statement gives details of the coolie immigration into the province during the past five years :—

Class of labourers.	1901.	1902.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.	1905-1906.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Act { Sardari adults	8,102	7,988	5,031	4,196	5,482
Act { Contractors' adults ...	6,147	6,088	6,095	2,868	3,961
Non-Act adults	5,638	6,123	6,643	11,986	15,252
Total of Act and non-Act adults ...	19,887	20,199	17,769	19,050	24,695
Children	6,336	6,485	4,393	5,159	7,135
Grand total	26,223	26,684	22,162	24,209	31,830

There was a distinct improvement in immigration, but the total, 31,830, is only one half of the number that came to the province in 1890. The labour question is still a difficult one, due chiefly to the competition of the coal and other industries in the recruiting areas, where larger wages are earned, though under severer conditions. The Government of Madras have recently issued revised rules, removing certain restrictions on sardari recruitment in the districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam. The Assam-Bengal Railway and the East Indian Railway have, since the close of the year, arranged to issue tickets to tea-garden coolies on presentation of a credit note, signed by the Manager or Superintendent of any garden in Assam. The East Indian Railway have further arranged for a through carriage for coolies from Assansol to Goalundo, and have reduced the third-class fares to $1\frac{1}{2}$ pies per mile for coolies carried over 100 miles. These concessions will, it is hoped, tend to stimulate sardari recruitment. Compared with the preceding year, there was an increase of 5,645 in the total number of immigrants; Chota Nagpur, the Sonthal Parganas, the Central Provinces, and Madras showed the largest increases, which occurred both among Act and non-Act coolies.

Casualties en route.

742. The number of deaths, which occurred during the journey, increased from 16 to 58. Of these, 45 were due to cholera, which was, unfortunately, prevalent during the year. The mortality among the labour force from this cause in 1905-1906 was 2,057, compared with 813 in the preceding year.

Fraudulent and irregular recruitment.

743. The number of complaints of fraudulent recruitment was 74 compared with 75 in 1904-1905. Fraud or irregularity was proved in 39 cases. In 17 cases the coolies concerned were repatriated at the expense of the gardens concerned. In one case in the Sibsagar district which was classed as true, the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhum obtained an order from the Government of Bengal, directing the cancellation of three contracts executed by emigrants from that district. The coolies preferred, however, to remain on the garden.

Repatriation of coolies.

744. Of the 161 coolies who were given the option of repatriation, 41 preferred to remain on the garden or in the labour district, 118 electing to be sent to their homes, one man died, and one absconded. The cost of repatriation debitable to the Inland Labour Transport Fund was Rs. 726-4-0, against Rs. 423-5-9 in 1904-1905.

Working of Act XIII of 1859.

745. The working of this Act was the subject of an exhaustive inquiry by the Assam Labour Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of India in February 1906.

Wages.

746. In consultation with the Indian Tea Association and its local branches, a revised form of return of wages was prescribed in Circular No. 37R., dated the 1st September 1905. The monthly return which Managers were required to submit has been abolished. The revised return which has been substituted furnishes details of wages earned in the two typical months of March and September, and also shows the wage average upon working coolies.

The average monthly wages of Act labourers show a fair increase. The average for men on the total labour force increased from Rs. 5-8-2 to Rs. 5-12-9, and for women from Rs. 4-7-6 to Rs. 4-11-10. The average for males varied from Rs. 6-7-6 in Lakhimpur, where the majority of the coolies are under Act VI, to Rs. 3-12-5 in Kamrup, where very few Act labourers are employed. The monthly average calculated on the daily working strength was Rs. 7-3-0 for males and Rs. 6-2-4 for females.

Wages of non-Act labourers.

747. The average wage earned by non-Act men, calculated on the total labour force, was Rs. 4-15-4, compared with Rs. 5-7-1 in 1904-1905 : the average earnings of women for the two years were Rs. 3-9-2 and Rs. 3-13-2, and for children Rs. 2-3-1 and Rs. 2-7-8, respectively. Calculated on the daily working strength, the average earnings of men were Rs. 7-1-10, of women Rs. 5-8-8, and of children Rs. 3-7-7.

Vital statistics. Birth-rate.

748. The birth-rate per mille, calculatedon the total coolie population, was 29·2, compared with 28·4 in 1904-1905. It compares unfavourably with the provincial birth-rate, which was 39·37 on the total population and 128·4 on the adult female population. In the Kamrup district alone, where free labour is chiefly employed, has the ratio approached the provincial rate.

Death-rate.

749. For the total labour force the registered rate of mortality was the same as in 1904-1905, *viz.*, 24·0 per mille. The districts of Kamrup, Sylhet, and Darrang showed an increase in all cases due to the prevalence of cholera, while all other districts showed a satisfactory decrease.

Deaths among children.

750. The death-rate among children was slightly in excess of that of the preceding year, *viz.*, 21·1, against 20·9. In Kamrup the death-rate was 68·9 on a mean annual strength of 914.

751. Only 448 time-expired coolies were treated as inpatients in Government dispensaries, against 799 in 1904-1905. The decrease is highly satisfactory.

Sick and destitute coolies.

In the two shelter huts in the Sylhet district—at Fenchuganj and Karimganj—61 persons were relieved, of whom 45 were *ex*-tea coolies and 16 railway coolies. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 370.

Unhealthy gardens.

752. Gardens are classed as unhealthy when the average mortality, either for the garden population as a whole, or for the Act or non-Act population taken separately, exceeds 7 per cent., the number of deaths from which the average is struck being not less than 10. The number of gardens on the unhealthy list for 1905-1906 was 10 of a total of 757 gardens, or 4 more than in the preceding year.

None of these gardens (except Burmacherra) was on the unhealthy list in the previous year. The Burmacherra garden was declared under section 144 of Act VI of 1901 to be unfit for the residence of Act labourers imported from Madras and was closed to such labour. In five of the remaining gardens the excess of mortality over 7 per cent. was small. The deaths were due to a variety of causes, and not to any special epidemic. Cholera was mainly responsible for the heavy mortality recorded on the other four gardens.

Offences and prosecutions. Complaints by tea planters and garden coolies.

753. Only two complaints were preferred to Magistrates by coolies against their employers for ill-treatment, unconnected with re-engagement, and one of these was pending from the preceding year. The reduction from 103 and 18 in the two preceding years is gratifying. Both complaints were lodged in the Sylhet district, but neither was of any importance. In one case the decision was in favour of the complainant, and in the other against him. One complaint of ill-treatment, in order to compel re-engagement, was lodged by a coolie of the Sibsagar district, which was decided against the complainant. In 1904-1905 there were 9 such cases. Five hundred and eighteen applications for discharge certificates were filed. These were granted in 297 cases. The corresponding figures for 1904-1905 were 562 and 360. Miscellaneous complaints (mainly under Act XIII), filed by coolies, declined from 213 to 162. Only one case of importance occurred during the year. A coolie, who was under an Act-XIII agreement on an outlying garden in the Sibsagar district, absconded, and was illegally arrested and confined. When produced before the Assistant Manager, he became impertinent. The Assistant Manager struck him, and the next day the man committed suicide. The Assistant Manager was prosecuted and fined under section 323, Indian Penal Code.

The cases in which Managers were the complainants in criminal proceedings showed a slight increase, *viz.*, from 10 to 11. In eight cases coolies were charged with unlawful assembly or rioting and in three cases with assault or intimidation. Of these 11 cases, two were pending at the close of the year.

Desertions.

754. The number of deserters, 2,731, was only two less than in the year preceding. Imprisonment was inflicted in 221 cases, against 241 in 1904-1905.

Inspections.

755. The total number of gardens at the close of the year was 757. Of these, 690 were liable to inspection. In Cachar, however, the biennial system of inspection continued in force. This reduced the number of gardens actually liable to inspection during the year to 598, of which 573 were inspected.

Since the close of the year the biennial system of inspection, which was sanctioned tentatively for the district of Cachar only, has been extended to other districts; under this system, only those estates, the management of which is open to question, will be inspected annually.

Capitation fees.

756. The demand on account of capitation fees was Rs. 38,428-4-0, and a sum of Rs. 692-4-0 was outstanding from the previous year. Rupees 38,594 were collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 529 to be realized.

Colonisation of ex-tea-garden coolies.

757. The area of Government land settled direct with time-expired coolies in the province increased from 120,390 acres to 131,929 acres. In addition to land held direct from Government, a good deal of land is held throughout the province by coolies as sub-tenants of raiyats or *mirasdars* or of the gardens on which they are employed. No details of the extent of these holdings are available.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

758. The receipts of the Inland Labour Transport Fund in Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam during the financial year 1905-1906 amounted to Rs. 57,495, against Rs. 84,932 in the preceding year, and the disbursements to Rs. 64,958, against Rs. 77,470.

Labour Committee.

759. The most important question of the year affecting the tea industry was the appointment by the Government of India, in February 1906, of a representative Committee, who were required to investigate the general working of Act VI of 1901,

in connection with emigration to the labour districts in the Upper Assam Valley. The Committee were also authorised to consider whether the withdrawal of Act VI of 1901 from the Surma Valley districts would prejudicially affect recruitment for the Upper Assam Valley districts, and, if so, to suggest measures calculated to ensure a sufficient supply of labour for these districts, after the withdrawal of the Act from the Surma Valley and Lower Assam Valley districts. The report of the Committee has recently been published.

SECTION 3—Charitable Dispensaries.

[*See* Dispensary Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIV, Hospitals.]

Number of dispensaries.

760. The total number of dispensaries (excluding the Railway, the Police, and the private non-aided institutions) at the beginning of 1905 was 319, and at the end 331. The majority of the new institutions were opened by District Boards. Most of the dispensaries are under the administrative control of local bodies, but the direct management has, wherever possible, been placed in the hands of a local committee representative not only of the controlling local authority but also of the general public.

Attendance.

761. The total number of persons treated was 2,963,621, including 1,902,498 males, 368,198 females, and 692,925 children. In 1904 the total number of patients was 2,874,301. At the purely female dispensaries, in and out-patients, numbering 13,557, were treated, against 11,551 in the previous year.

Of the patients treated, 2,628 were Europeans and Eurasians, 1,333,932 Hindus, 1,429,111 Musalmans, and 137,950 belonged to "other classes."

The number of in-patients shows a rise from 20,516 to 21,714 with a corresponding increase in the daily average number from 901 to 946. The death-rate among in-patients was 9·22 per cent. of cases treated, as compared with 8·09 per cent. in 1904, but, omitting the figures for pauper and destitute coolies, the provincial case mortality came only to 8·4 per cent. The number of beds available was increased by 46 for males and 2 for females. An in-patient ward with four beds was opened at Haflong.

The number of out-patient was 2,881,907, about one per cent. more than in the preceding year. Of these, 74 out of every hundred attended personally, while 804,585 were represented by friends. Of the out-patients treated, 1,885,193 were men, 364,711 were women, and 692,003 children. The number of women attending the dispensaries fell off by 2,779, notwithstanding the provision of separate waiting rooms with separate entrances for females. The work done by the floating dispensary on the river Kumar in the district of Faridpur during 1905 was not satisfactory.

Diseases.

762. Skin diseases contributed most largely to the total admissions. Worms and malarial fevers come next, with 429,461 and 410,383, against 383,475 and 445,193, respectively, in the preceding year. Malarial fevers included 213 cases of *kalá-ázár*, as compared with 257 in 1904. The admissions due to small-pox and cholera rose from 59 and 7,269 to 105 and 13,338, respectively, and there was a considerable increase in cases of dysentery and diarrhœa. Cases of venereal diseases, however, fell from 39,257 in 1904 to 35,748 in 1905.

Surgical operations.

763. The total number of surgical operations performed during the year was 73,989, of which 2,676 are classed as "selected operations." Owing to a change in the method of classification, this latter figure cannot properly be compared with the statistics of previous years.

Financial position of dispensaries.

764. The total income of dispensaries from all sources was Rs. 6,12,644, of which Rs. 1,47,497 was contributed by Government, and Rs. 2,63,566 from Local and Municipal funds. Subscriptions from private individuals fell from Rs. 1,27,993 to Rs. 78,102, a regrettable decrease. The total expenditure was Rs. 6,45,389, including the permanent investments of Rs. 1,01,001 (Dacca). The closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 1,42,072, which includes temporary investments, and the financial position appears satisfactory.

Police, Railway and private non-aided hospitals, etc.

765. The total number of patients at the 56 police hospitals were 33,050, of whom 6,452 were in-patients. The number of operations performed was 578.

Two Public Works Department dispensaries were opened in connection with the building of the Dacca College and with special works at Dacca, and 816 patients were treated in them.

At the 37 Railway dispensaries, 945 in-patients and 96,521 out-patients were treated. The number of operations performed during the year was 1,728.

The total number of in and out-door patients in the private dispensaries was 879 and 560,916, respectively, and 15,415 operations were performed.

Sylhet Leper Asylum.

766. On the 1st January there were 19 lepers in the Sylhet asylum, and 13 were admitted in the course of the year, making a total of 32, against 51 in 1904. At the end of the year there were only 16 inmates. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,569, as against Rs. 1,656 in 1904.

SECTION 4.—Lunatic Asylums.

[*See* Triennial Report on the Lunatic Asylums in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the years 1903, 1904, and 1905.]

Number of Lunatic Asylums.

767. The two lunatic asylums of the province are situated at Dacca and Tezpur.

Number of lunatics.

768. The number of lunatics confined in the asylums on the 1st of January 1905 was 425, of whom 349 were men and 76 women. During the year there were 95 admissions, 10 readmissions, 73 discharges, and 32 deaths. Allowing for these additions and deductions, the number of inmates at the close of the year was 425, the same as in the previous year. Of these, 189 men and 28 women were criminal lunatics. The corresponding numbers of the latter class for 1903 and 1904 were 174 men and 28 women, and 182 men and 29 women, respectively. Of the 95 admitted and 10 readmitted, 69 were Hindus, 32 Muhammadans, and 4 of other castes.

Causes of insanity.

769. Of the 95 admissions and 10 readmissions, 34 were ascribed to physical causes, 17 to moral causes, and in the remaining 54 cases, the causes were not known. Of the 34 cases ascribed to physical causes, 21 were found to be due to *ganja* smoking, 2 to spirit drinking, 2 to fever, while 9 were connected with hereditary predisposition.

Health of inmates.

770. In the province and in each asylum the ratio of admissions to hospital was in 1905 less than in 1904, but greater than in 1903; that of constantly sick was less than in either of the two years in the province and in Tezpur, greater in Dacca; that of death less than in 1904, greater than in 1903, for the province and for Tezpur, greater than in both years for Dacca. The mortality at Tezpur rose much in 1904, but fell again,—64, 93, 65 per mille; while that at Dacca it increased year by year,—55, 67, 81 per mille. The increase at Dacca during the year is stated to be chiefly due to deaths from tubercle of the lungs, to which the insane are said to be specially liable. Taking both the asylums together, however, the mortality of 1905 was decidedly below the average of that year for Indian asylums.

Accommodation.

771. Both institutions are reported to have been overcrowded,—Dacca for a few months, Tezpur continuously and to a greater extent. At Tezpur a new hospital for 14 inmates and a new barrack have been completed, and another barrack is under construction, while it is intended that two more shall be ultimately built.

Employment of inmates.

772. Both at Dacca and Tezpur employment was mainly of a domestic character, directed to the cleanliness of the asylum, its buildings and compound. But the males, who were quiet, were also employed in gardening and cooking, and the females in spinning, weaving, and cleaning grain. At Tezpur well-behaved male patients were also employed in brick-making and in repairing buildings.

Receipts and expenditure.

773. The income from paying patients and net receipts from manufactures in all the asylums were Rs. 704-13-4 and Rs. 4,248-11-6, respectively, against Rs. 678-15-11 and Rs. 4,175-3-0 in 1904. The total expenditure on the two asylums was Rs. 42,862-1-11, against Rs. 43,354-10-0.

European lunatics.

774. No European lunatics were confined in the asylums in the province. Lunatics of this class have hitherto been sent to the Bhawanipur Lunatic Asylum in Calcutta, but a scheme is under consideration for the construction of a Central Asylum at Ranchi which will ameliorate the conditions to which European lunatics are now subjected.

SECTION 5.—Sanitation.

[*See* Annual Sanitary Report of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905.]

Municipal income and expenditure under different heads of Sanitation during 1905.

775. The total income of the municipalities, stations, unions, and towns in Eastern Bengal and Assam during the year amounted to Rs. 12,94,917 (excluding the opening balances), or Rs. 48,996 more than in 1904.

The total expenditure on sanitary purposes was Rs. 8,39,618, against Rs. 8,86,786 in the preceding year. Of this sum, Rs. 3,39,228 were spent on "Conservancy," Rs. 40,312 on "Drainage," and Rs. 74,132 on "Water-supply."

Compared with the preceding year, there was a fall in expenditure under all the important heads of Sanitation, with the exception of "Conservancy" in which there was an increase of Rs. 10,778.

Sanitary works.

776. The condition of house closets in the town of Dacca was found to be indescribably filthy and the trenching arrangements imperfect. Schemes for draining the city and improving its sanitation are being elaborated; and schemes for improving the water-supply of Chittagong, Narayanganj, and Rampur Boalia are under consideration. The Gauhati waterworks were entirely remodelled during the year, while the roadside drainage at Dinajpur was nearly completed.

Village sanitation.

777. The sanitary works executed in rural areas were chiefly confined to the improvement of water-supply by excavating and cleaning tanks and by digging wells. No work of importance was undertaken.

Sale of quinine.

778. During the year a scheme was introduced for stimulating the sale of quinine in pice-packets. The retailing agency has been largely expanded, and retailers' profit has been substantially increased at the cost of Provincial revenues.

Sanitary Board.

779. A Provincial Sanitary Board has been constituted for the province, consisting of the First Member of the Board of Revenue, the Chief Engineer, and the Sanitary Commissioner. With them will be associated the Commissioner of the Division to which their deliberations relate. No meetings of the Board were held during the year.

SECTION 6.—Vaccination.

[*See* Vaccination Returns of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year 1905-1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVI.]

Vaccination staff and the number of operations.

780. The average strength of the vaccination establishment in 1905-1906 was 1,315. This was made up of one European supervising officer stationed at the Shillong Vaccine Depôt, 76 Indian supervising officers, 267 paid and 971 licensed vaccinators.

781. The total number of operations done by the Departmental and Dispensary Officers was 1,413,142, or 75,263 more than in the previous year, while 15,884 vaccinations were performed by tea-garden and railway agencies.

Percentage of successful cases.

782. The paid and licensed vaccinators performed 1,343,741 primary and 41,666 secondary operations, of which 1,311,306 primary, or a percentage of 98·34, and 28,562 secondary, or a percentage of 71·58, were successful. A percentage of about 89 or more for primary vaccinations was reported from most of the districts, Manipur (89·01) and Kamrup (90·63) showing the worst results. In Rangpur, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Goalpara, and Lakhimpur the percentage of successful operations was 100. It is estimated that, on an average, 1,035 operations were performed by each paid, against 1,131 by each licensed, vaccinator. The Dispensary establishments performed 26,303 primary and 1,432 secondary operations, of which 25,549, or 97·84 per cent., of primary and 986, or 74·64 per cent., of secondary operations were successful. Fifteen thousand one hundred and forty-three operations, all primary, were performed on tea gardens, of which 94 per cent. were successful. On the Eastern Bengal Railway 460 operations were done, of which 226 were primary with a successful percentage of 92·65, and on the Assam-Bengal Railway the number of vaccinations performed was 281, of which 125 were primary. 88·8 per cent. of these were successful. In all, the number of successful operations in 1905-1906 was 1,366,403.

Protection of infants.

783. Out of 10,410 children available for vaccination within the compulsory areas 7,390 were successfully vaccinated. Although in some districts (Rangpur, Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, and Faridpur) practically all infants were vaccinated, vaccination in compulsory areas was not satisfactory during the year.

Vaccinations inspected.

784. Of the total number of persons vaccinated during the past season by the Departmental Officers and Dispensary establishments, 95,522 were inspected by the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner or Civil Surgeons, and 1,269,826 by Indian Superintendents or other inspecting officers. The percentages of cases found to be successful by the former were 93·03 primary and 55·85 secondary, and those by the latter 94·97 primary and 57·99 secondary. The vaccinators themselves reported that 97·57 of their primary and 68·56 of their secondary vaccinations had been successful.

Cost.

785. The total cost of the Department was Rs. 80,103-5-8, of which Rs. 59,000-4-3 were paid from Provincial funds, Rs. 14,057 from District and Local Board funds, Rs. 4,889-6-10 from Municipal funds, while Rs. 2,156-9-7 were contributed by the Manipur State. The average cost of each successful vaccination was Re. 0-0-11.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Small-pox mortality.

786. There were 5,637 deaths from small-pox. The ratio of deaths per 1,000 of population was ·18, the lowest since 1901-1902. The rate was highest in Kamrup (3·17), Darrang (1·32), and Chittagong (·55). The Hill Districts, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and Manipur did not suffer at all.

Vaccine depot.

787. The total number of tubes loaded with vaccine virus at the Vaccine Depôt, Shillong, was 515,823. Six hundred and sixty-two calves were vaccinated, and the vaccine was taken from 565. Since November 1904, the depôt has been entirely independent of vaccine obtained from outside sources. By careful selection and strict attention to cleanliness it is now able to maintain its own supplies with certainty, and the quality of the vaccine is uniform and good. The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 10,208-2-7.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

SECTION I.—General System of Public Instruction.

Directing and Inspecting agencies.

788. The Education Department, as has already been stated, is controlled by the Director of Public Instruction. The Director is assisted by five Inspectors, who are at the head of the five divisions into which the province has been divided for educational purposes, and by an Assistant Inspector. In Eastern Bengal each district has a Deputy Inspector, aided in four instances by an Additional Deputy Inspector, who works under the dual control of the District Magistrate and of the Department. Under these are the Sub-Inspectors, ninety-three in number, and the Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 13 in number, each with his defined range of supervision, who are appointed, paid by and entirely subordinate to the District Boards. Still lower than these are the Inspecting Pundits who are employed by the same bodies to assist the Sub-Inspectors in the supervision of Primary schools. These number 125. In Assam, each of the nineteen subdivisions has its own Deputy Inspector, who works under a dual control, *viz.*, that of the Department and that of the Chairman of Local Boards, and is aided by Sub-Inspectors, who are his subordinates. These are all Government servants, and are paid from Provincial revenues. In both parts of the province the Inspector is specially charged with the control of Colleges and High schools within his division, and with the general supervision of institutions of all classes ; the Deputy Inspectors are vested with the control of Middle schools, but they exercise also a general supervision over all Primary schools within their range. The work of the Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors is confined to matters connected with Primary schools and similar elementary institutions. It should, however, be noted that in Eastern Bengal certain Colleges are exempt from the Inspector's control and are subject only to that of the Director. Schools of all classes are also periodically inspected by Divisional Commissioners, District Officers and Subdivisional Officers within their respective jurisdictions.

District and Local Boards.

789. All District Boards in Eastern Bengal and all Local Boards in Assam have been vested with certain powers over education. These Boards have each a Committee for dealing with educational matters, of which the Deputy Inspector of Schools is an *ex-officio* member.

Classification of Institutions.

790. The main divisions of educational institutions are Collegiate, Secondary (High and Middle schools) and Primary (Upper and Lower). The Lower Primary stage is followed by two years of Upper Primary and a further two years of Middle standard instruction. Then come four years of High school classes, leading to the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, on passing which a boy enters upon his Collegiate career.

Collegiate education.

791. There are eleven Arts Colleges in the province, four of which are State and seven unaided institutions. The State Colleges are the Dacca, Rajshahi, and Chittagong Colleges and the Cotton College at Gauhati. Three only of the eleven are first-grade colleges and teach up to the B. A. or M. A. standard of the Calcutta University. The remainder are of the second grade, teaching up to the standard of the First Arts Examination of the same University.

The following table gives the names and grade of the Colleges, together with the number of pupils on the rolls on the 31st March 1906:—

No.	Name of the College.	Grade.	Number of pupils on the rolls on the 31st March 1906.	Remarks.
1	Dacca College	1st grade	232	An M. A. class is attached to this College.
2	Rajshahi College...	1st „	219	Ditto.
3	Cotton College, Gauhati	2nd „	52	
4	Chittagong College	2nd „	71	
5	Brajo Mohan Institution, Barisal ...	1st „	334	
6	Jagannath College, Dacca	2nd „	330	
7	The Murarichand College, Sylhet ...	2nd „	63	
8	Victoria College, Comilla	2nd „	158	
9	Pabna Institution	2nd „	58	
10	City College, Mymensingh	2nd „	105	
11	Tangail Pramatha Manmatha College ...	2nd „	64	

The rate of fees is Rs. 3 in all Colleges except in the Dacca, Cotton, and Murarichand Colleges, where the fees are Rs. 6, Rs. 5 and Rs. 4, respectively.

Secondary instruction.

792. Secondary schools are institutions in which the course of studies leads from Primary to Collegiate education. They comprise High, Middle English, and Middle Vernacular schools.

The High schools are those institutions which are recognised by the Calcutta University as capable of affording suitable preparation for the Entrance Examination. In these schools, boys are taught from their earliest stage of education up to the Entrance standard, but many leave school without completing the course. There are 212 High schools in the province, of which 24 are State schools, one is under a joint committee, 63 are aided, that is to say, private institutions towards the maintenance of which the Government makes a fixed contribution; and 124 are unaided private schools.

In the Middle English and the Middle Vernacular schools, of which the final standard is four years below that of Matriculation, the course of instruction is the same, with the exception that in Assam English is taught in the former and not in the latter. In Eastern Bengal, however, English has been made an optional subject in the Middle Vernacular schools, and the distinction between Middle Vernacular and Middle English schools has to a great extent ceased to denote any difference. Drill in Eastern Bengal and Indian gymnastics (*Deshi kasrat*) in Assam have been introduced in all Government and aided schools. The total number of Middle English schools is 498, of which 5 are State schools, 16 are under local bodies (*i.e.*, District, Local, or Municipal Boards), 335 are aided and 145 unaided. Out of 434 Middle Vernacular schools, 17 are State schools, 44 are under local bodies, 346 are aided, and 27 are unaided.

Visiting committees and school Committees.

793. For all Secondary schools in Eastern Bengal, managed by Government or District Boards and Municipalities, there are visiting committees, for which local residents, adequately representing the classes from which the students are drawn, are selected. In the case of Government schools, the selection is made by the District Officer in consultation with the Inspector of Schools, and, in the case of District Board or Municipal schools, by the Chairman from among the members of the District and Local Boards and the Municipal Commissioners. They form an advisory body. The aided Secondary schools, both High and Middle, are managed by committees, the members of which are selected, where possible, so as to represent all classes,—legal, commercial, trading, industrial and agricultural—of the community. The selection of these members is approved by the District Officer in consultation with the Inspector of Schools in the case of Secondary schools aided by Government, and by the Chairmen of the District and Municipal Boards in the case of those aided by these bodies. There are similar committees in Assam for every Upper Primary, Middle Vernacular, and Middle English school.

Primary Education.

794. The main object of Primary schools is to provide the masses with some knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The Primary schools are of two classes, Upper and Lower. The Lower Primary institutions are those in which the most elementary instruction is provided in the vernacular. The subjects of the course are:—

In Eastern Bengal.	*In Assam.*
1. Science Primers, Standards I and II, Handwriting, Reading.	1. Reading, Handwriting and Dictation.
2. Arithmetic, (European and Indian), Mental Arithmetic.	2. Arithmetic (European and Indian), Mental Arithmetic.
3. Drawing.	3. Zamindari or Mauzadari and Mahajani Accounts, and Simple Mensuration after the Indian method.
4. School Drill.	4. Geography, consisting of a general comprehension of the village field map, and Geography of Assam taught orally by means of a map, etc.
5. Object-lessons on the sky and air and the subjects in Science.	5. Indian gymnastic exercises known as *Deshi kasrat*.
6. Manual work (optional).	

The Upper Primary schools give instruction somewhat more advanced than that of the Lower Primary course detailed above, and include, in Eastern Bengal, a Historical Reader (Bengal) and a Literature book containing (*a*) prose, (*b*) poetry, (*c*) grammar, in Assam, a History of that portion of the province, and, in both, Geography, Geometry, and Mensuration.

By the introduction in Eastern Bengal of the vernacular education scheme sanctioned in 1901, the courses prescribed for pupils of different ages from 5 to 9 attending the lower classes of these schools have been graduated and steps have been taken to teach practical subjects as much as possible, with a view to train the faculty of observation and the use of the eye and the hand.

The number of Lower Primary schools in the province was at the end of the year 15,349, and the number of the pupils attending them was 446,791. There were 2,281 Upper Primary schools, of which 38 were State schools, 5 were under local bodies, 2,207 were aided, and 31 were unaided. Upper Primary schools were attended by 100,528 pupils in the year under report.

Education in Native States.

795. In Manipur there has been considerable progress in education. Forty-three Primary schools and one English school have been established in the State, and the number of pupils has increased from 1,670 to 2,298. The cost is borne by the State. A training school for teachers has been opened. The supervision of teachers is entrusted to a Deputy Inspector and Inspecting Pandits, under the control of the Director.

Grant-in-aid rules.

796. Grants-in-aid by local bodies or from Provincial funds to High, Middle, and Upper Primary schools are subject to certain definite conditions. These are chiefly that the school will meet a recognised want, that the education provided is likely to be good, and that a substantial contribution towards the cost of the school is already provided from private sources. It is also required that the grants shall be given on the principle of strict religious neutrality, that the schools in receipt of the grants should take some fee from their scholars, that the amount of each grant shall be limited with reference to the income of the school from local sources, that the school shall be open to inspection, and shall keep proper accounts. These rules apply to Secondary schools of both portions of the province, but in Eastern Bengal an additional condition for the grant of aid to High schools is that provision must be made for instruction in drill and drawing, and that the medium of instruction in the classes below the fourth shall be in the vernacular.

The Lower Primary schools, which are generally started in Eastern Bengal as experimental schools, often by men possessed of small educational qualifications, are supported by fees and by grants from public (mainly Local) funds. Since 1903, these grants have been distributed upon a new system, which differs from district to district, but which generally takes the form of a very small fixed grant (one or two rupees a month) during nine months of the year, supplemented by a further residual allowance at the close of the year, as funds permit, and as is justified by the condition of the school. The method of calculating the grant is not uniform. The most systematic is the "test card" system prevailing in the Chittagong Division. Newly-started *pathsalas*, on the other hand, receive only a residual allowance at the close of the year; while a few schools, which deserve encouragement for special reasons, receive fairly solid monthly grants and no residual allowance. The average pay of a village *guru* is about Rs. 5; this is supplemented in many cases by a small income resulting from the performance of other duties (*e.g.*, the copying of deeds, by agriculture, etc.), or by free board extended to him by the villagers.

Matters are, however, very different in Assam. Of the 2,954 Primary schools situated there, 2,286 are Local Board schools, and are supported from Local Funds. The taking of fees is not forbidden; but only 3·5 per cent. of the total expenditure is covered by these. The Local Funds available are distributed in fixed salaries, on an average of Rs. 8 a month for certificated, and Rs. 5 for uncertificated teachers, and in an additional capitation allowance based on the number in the first three classes as fixed by the inspecting officer from time to time. The salary and capitation allowance earned by a teacher may amount to Rs. 14.

Middle and Primary Examinations.

797. Since 1904-1905 Middle examinations and the so-called Primary examinations ceased to be held as public examinations. In Eastern Bengal only a few selected candidates are examined at convenient centres for the award of scholarships; and private examinations are held by teachers and managers on the result of which certificates are granted. In Assam the examinations are conducted *in situ* by inspecting officers, similar certificates being given.

Scholarships.

798. Liberal scholarships are granted by the Government for the encouragement of education in all its stages. The following scholarships, previously tenable in Bengal, have been handed over to Eastern Bengal for the encouragement of education:—

(1) Three senior first-grade scholarships of Rs. 20, and ten second-grade senior scholarships of Rs. 16.
(2) Two first-grade junior scholarships of Rs. 16, twelve scholarships of Rs. 12, and twenty-five scholarships of Rs. 8.
(3) Six special senior scholarships for Muhammadans of the value of Rs. 10, and six of the value of Rs. 7.
(4) Fourteen special junior scholarships for Muhammadans of Rs. 7.
(5) Three Mohsin senior scholarships—one of Rs. 16, one of Rs. 14, and one of Rs. 12.
(6) Four Mohsin junior scholarships of Rs. 8.

In Assam there are 34 Junior College scholarships—two of the value of Rs. 20, 12 of Rs. 15, and 20 of Rs. 10 per mensem, but the number of senior scholarships is not limited. They are awarded to enable junior scholarship-holders to continue their studies.

These scholarships are intended for Collegiate education. For the encouragemenr of High and Middle school education, there are 148 Middle scholarships, 155 Uppet Primary scholarships and 566 Lower Primary scholarships. The system now in vogue in Eastern Bengal is to award a fixed proportion of Upper Primary scholarships to each subdivision, and of Lower Primary scholarships to each thana. Preliminary examinations at centres are held by Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for the selection of candidates, and then follows the Scholarship examination, conducted in one case by the Inspector, with the aid of Deputy Inspectors, in the other by the District Board or Education Committee. In Assam Scholarship examinations are conducted by the Department, masters of schools submitting lists of candidates for different centres.

The special facilities granted for the encouragement of Muhammadan education are as follows:—

(1) In Government and aided High schools of Eastern Bengal, free studentships are given to Muhammadan pupils to the limit of 8 per cent. of the school population, not exceeding 12 in number in any one school.

(2) A portion of the Mohsin Fund is distributed partly in remission of fees to the extent of half of the fees levied in schools and colleges, and partly in the shape of senior and junior college scholarships.

(3) There are special Government senior and junior scholarships for Muhammadans.

(4) A proportion of the Middle and Upper Primary scholarships in each district and a proportion of the stipends held in the training schools have been reserved for Muhammadan pupils.

(5) Lower Primary scholarships have been reserved for Muhammadan boys by certain District Boards.

Accommodation.

799. Except in zilla and collegiate schools, the accommodation in secondary schools and even in some of the proprietary colleges is generally poor. *Pucca* houses are unnecessary in a country where all buildings are of slight structure. But the buildings should at least be rain proof, and be tolerably neat and clean in appearance. Such, however, is not always the case. As regards the *pathsalas*, the majority of them in Eastern Bengal have no buildings of their own, but meet in verandahs or out-houses belonging to the village headmen. In Assam, however, considerable expenditure has been incurred in the building of small school-houses, and the result is highly satisfactory.

Female education.

800. With the exception of 3 High schools, and 14 schools which teach up to the Middle standard, female education in the province is confined to elementary instruction in Primary schools. There are *pathsalas* exclusively for females, and in addition a considerable number of girls attend boys' *pathsalas*. Many little boys also go to girls' schools. The inherent difficulty in the progress of female education is that the great majority of girl pupils are removed from school before they have had more than a mere infant class education.

Eastern Bengal offers no special State scholarships for girls. Girls compete with boys for the ordinary allotted scholarships. Some districts, however, have created special scholarships for girls. Assam offers eight special Lower Primary scholarships for girls from Provincial Funds, five special Upper Primary scholarships and three special Middle scholarships.

Zenana instruction is carried on at Barisal and Noakhali.

Instruction in training.

801. In Eastern Bengal there are no facilities for training English teachers, but in Assam something is attempted at the Shillong Training school, and apprenticeships are held in High schools. The system, however, is quite inadequate. In Eastern Bengal, there are three Government schools for the training of Vernacular teachers of Middle schools and High schools. In the Assam Valley there are two Training schools for the same class of teachers of Middle and Upper Primary schools. In this Valley partially, and the Surma Valley entirely, the training of these teachers is also carried on by a system of apprenticeships held at High and Middle Vernacular schools. The training of Lower Primary teachers is carried on in Eastern Bengal by means of 39 subdivisional Guru Training schools, which are managed and

maintained by Government. In Assam, teachers of this class are trained, under the apprentice system, chiefly in Middle Vernacular schools. There are also four Training schools under Missions aided by Government and one unaided school. These are for Cacharis, Garos, and Nagas. There is no arrangement in either part of the province for the training of female teachers.

Special Education.

802. There are three Law Colleges in the province, two attached to the two State Colleges at Dacca and Rajshahi, and the third to the Brajamohan Institution at Barisal. There are also Law classes for the local Pleadership Examination, attached to the Silchar and Sylhet High schools and to the Dacca College.

Law.

Medical Schools.

803. The Medical schools in the province were two in number, the Dacca Medical School and the Berry-White School at Dibrugarh. Both are maintained by Government, and had, at the end of 1905-1906, 291 students on their rolls. They teach up to the Civil Hospital standard, the course extending over a period of four years.

Engineering Schools.

804. The only School of Engineering in the province is attached to the Dacca College. It comprises the five overseer classes, and pupils presenting themselves from it at the Shibpur College examination are eligible for Overseer certificates. But no provision is made at Dacca for the final 18 months of practical training which lead up to the Foreman Mechanic's certificate, and which are an integral part of the Overseer's course. There is also a survey class attached to the school. The popularity of this institution is assured, and the number of students rose during the year 1905-1906 from 189 to 289.

Technical Schools.

805. Apart from the Dacca School of Engineering, there are five Technical schools, under District Boards, in Eastern Bengal, affiliated to the Sibpur College and teaching up to the Sub-Overseer or the Artizan standard of that institution. Amin classes, and, in the case of Rampur Boalia, a sericulture class, are also held in these schools. There are also six "B" classes, five of which are connected with these Technical schools, and one with the Dacca School of Engineering. Practical work is done by the "B" class pupils in the workshops; and on passing the "B" class examination, they are permitted to enter the second-year class of the Sub-Overseer course. After a further year of instruction, and after successfully passing the Sub-Overseer Examination, they are eligible for admission to the third-year class of the Apprentice Department, either at Dacca or at Sibpur.

The District Board of Malda has recently opened a small school for dyeing and weaving, and there is a private school at Chittagong, supported by subscriptions, which gives instructions in tinning, the manufacture of jewellery, etc.

There are no workshops in Assam, but a number of stipends are granted each year to boys entering the Railway workshops for training as mechanics from the Williamson bequest and from Provincial Funds. This arrangement has had good results in adding to the supply of skilled artizans, for whom there is a demand in Assam.

Commercial classes have been opened in certain places, *e.g.*, Rampur Boalia and Dacca, but they cannot yet be pronounced a success.

Education of special classes. Schools for European and Eurasian boys.

806. There are seven schools for Europeans and Eurasians in the province, of which the only Government institution is the Pine Mount School, Shillong. The remaining six are aided, three being under the control of Roman Catholic Missions, and three being undenominational Railway schools. Of these, one, St. Scholastica's at Chittagong, is mainly a girls' school. These schools can as yet hardly compete with those at Darjeeling and Mussoorie.

Education among hill tribes.

807. The only High English school for the hill tribes is that at Rangamati. This is a Government institution. The number of pupils in the school was, in 1905-1906, 106, of whom 65 were hill pupils. Besides this, there are three Middle schools for the hill tribes of the Chittagong Hill Tracts at which 93 hill boys attend, and a number of Primary schools for hill boys exist in each of the several divisions of the province.

In Mymensingh there are five District Board schools, and others are managed by the American Baptist Mission, principally for the Garos. Rajshahi contains seven schools for the benefit of backward races; in Tippera there are twelve Primary schools aided by the District Board, and in the Chittagong Hill Tracts there are 104 free schools supported from Provincial revenues for various tribes, largely Chakmas and Hill Mags.

In Assam the education of the hill tribes is partly undertaken by the State, and partly by the Welsh Presbyterian and the American Baptist Missions which receive grants from Government. The former Mission has opened 342 schools in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and the latter 146 in the Garo and Naga Hills, while both Missions have some schools in the Lushai Hills. These schools are attended by some 7,500 pupils. A new post of Deputy Inspector of Schools has been created for the Garo Hills district for the effective supervision of schools in those hills.

Schools for the study of oriental classical languages.

808. These represent a very heterogeneous mass of institutions. There are 361 recognised institutions with 12,119 pupils. Of these, 3 are under Government, 1 under a local body, 175 are aided, and 183 are unaided, but under inspection. Besides these, there is a whole mass of unrecognised institutions—a few teaching advanced Arabic and Sanskrit, the majority being petty *koran* schools and *tols*. There are said to be 3,777 such institutions with 70,616 pupils. In both these classes of schools, there is a preponderating number of institutions, for imparting religious and other instruction to Muhammadans. These may be divided into five classes :—

I. Seven Madrassas (which are institutions in which instruction is given in Persian and Arabic), containing nine classes and affiliated to the Calcutta Madrassa.

II. Smaller Madrassas which do not send up pupils to the Central Madrassa Examinations, but serve as feeders to the larger Madrassas.

III. The so-called Madrassas which are little better than *Muktabs*, teaching a little Arabic and Persian.

IV. *Koran* schools, where the sole instruction given is the recitation of passages from the *koran*.

V. *Tols*, where instruction is given in Sanskrit language and literature and in the various systems of Hindu Philosophy.

A new class of Madrassas, known as Middle Madrassas, has recently been started in the Dacca Division: these are virtually Middle English schools with the addition of Urdu and Persian in certain standards. There are four such Madrassas.

SECTION 2.—Education.

[*See* General Report on Public Instruction in Eastern Bengal and Assam for 1905-1906; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section X.]

Statistics as to Education generally.

809. The number of educational institutions in the province increased during the year from 25,281 to 25,567, and that of pupils from 766,969 to 792,987. Of these institutions, 21,790 with 722,371 pupils, were public institutions, and 3,777 with 70,616 pupils, were private. The percentage of male pupils to male population of a school-going age was 28·2 and of female pupils 2·9 per cent. The total of Hindu pupils rose from 348,931 to 358,521, but their proportion to the whole number in public institutions fell from 49·91 to 49·63 per cent. The number of Muhammadan pupils increased from 322,606 to 333,462, and, proportionally to the total, from 46·15 to 46·16 per cent. The number of Hindu boys at school was 53·52 per cent. of the Hindu boys of a school-going age, but the ratio in the case of Muhammadan boys was only 25·94.

Financial.

810. The total expenditure on direct and indirect education was Rs. 47,81,833, against Rs. 45,12,776 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 2,69,057, or 6 per cent. The distribution of expenditure during the past two years was as follows :—

Sources from which expenditure on education was met.	1904-1905.		1905-1906.	
	Amount.	Proportion to total cost.	Amount.	Proportion to total cost.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.		Rs.	
Provincial Revenues	9,92,200	21·99	11,06,510	23·14
District Board and Local Board Funds ...	9,73,836	21·58	10,69,707	22·37
Municipal Funds	30,449	0·67	29,288	0·61
Fees	18,37,513	40·72	18,59,608	38·89
Other sources	6,78,778	15·04	7,16,720	14·99
Total	45,12,776	100·00	47,81,833	100·00

To the expenditure on Collegiate education, Government contributed 33·3 per cent. of the whole, to that on Secondary education 8·8 per cent., and to that on Primary schools 4·2 per cent. The gross expenditure on female education was not quite 2·4 per cent. of the total expenditure on education of all kinds. Of this sum,

Government contributed 24·2, District and Local Board Funds 44·4, and Municipal Funds nearly 6 per cent. Government contributed 61 per cent. of the amount disbursed as scholarships. The cost of educating each pupil in Arts Colleges was Rs. 92-12-3, in Professional Colleges (Law) Rs. 21-12-11, in Secondary schools Rs. 13-7-5, and in Primary schools Rs. 2-12-10.

Visiting Committees and School Committees.

811. In Eastern Bengal these committees were reconstituted in accordance with the instructions published in the *Calcutta Gazette* dated the 5th April 1905. In the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, they worked fairly well. In Assam they are of recent origin; and it is too early to pronounce any definite opinion upon them.

Collegiate Education.

812. The number of students attending Arts Colleges fell from 1,724 to 1,520, while the average daily attendance declined from 1,487 to 1,399. This decline was spread over each stage of instruction, but it was least in the first-year class. The total direct expenditure on Collegiate education, however, increased by Rs. 3,950.

Eight hundred and one candidates presented themselves at the F. A. Examination (the smallest number since 1900-1901), of whom 287 (22 in the first division, 70 in the second and 195 in the third) were successful, being a percentage of 32·1, the highest percentage (save in 1904-05, when it rose to 35·07) in the last six years. Two hundred and thirty-nine presented themselves at the B. A. Examination, of whom 52 were successful, being a percentage of 19·33, against 29·3 in 1904-1905. Of these 52, 38 (7 Honours and 31 Pass) came from Government Colleges and 14 (1 Honour and 13 Pass) from the Brajamohan College at Barisal. One student appeared at the M. A. Examination but failed to pass.

High Schools.

813. The number of High schools increased from 210 to 212, but the total number of pupils declined from 50,839 to 48,774. A decrease of 2,713 was shared equally among State and aided schools; unaided schools showed an increase of 548 pupils. The average attendance was 83·89 in State, 83·32 in aided, and 79·26 per cent. in unaided schools. The total expenditure on these schools amounted to Rs. 9,05,056. In Assam, the average cost of educating each pupil was, in State schools, Rs. 24-10-8, in aided schools, Rs. 22-14-2, and, in unaided schools, Rs. 20-11-9. In Eastern Bengal, the total cost in corresponding kinds of schools was Rs. 34-8-0, Rs. 17-12-0, and Rs. 14-3-11. Of 2,192 candidates for the Entrance Examination throughout the province, 648 (or 29·56 per cent.) were successful, 62 being placed in the first division, 201 in the second, and 385 in the third division. The percentage of successful candidates was in—

	State schools.	Aided schools.	Unaided schools.
Eastern Bengal ...	38·4	26·8	25·0
Assam ...	45·4	52·0	35·1

Middle English Schools.

814. Middle English schools increased by 29, and the pupils attending them by 2,040: the average daily attendance also increased from 29,224 to 30,471, and the total cost of maintaining them from Rs. 3,51,926 to Rs. 3,78,428. The total cost of educating each pupil was Rs. 9-10-9.

Middle Vernacular Schools.

815. The Middle Vernacular schools declined from 455 to 434, and the pupils attending them from 25,061 to 23,947. The average daily attendance decreased from 20,058 to 18,655, and the total cost of maintaining them from Rs. 1,91,115 to Rs. 1,84,973.

In schools under public management 930 pupils were examined at the conclusion of the middle stage of instruction, and 536 passed. The figures in aided schools were 3,986 and 2,135, and in unaided schools, 2,529 and 1,865. Middle scholarships were awarded to 144 pupils during the year.

Primary Schools.

816. The following table compares the statistics of Primary schools for boys for the last two years :—

	Upper Primary.		Lower Primary.		Total.		Attendance.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Upper Primary.	Lower Primary.
1904-1905	2,217	99,852	15,113	427,451	17,330	527,303	77,897	323,349
1905-1906	2,281	100,528	15,349	446,791	17,630	547,319	76,866	325,771

Expenditure on Primary schools increased from Rs. 14,13,987 to Rs. 14,43,223, or by Rs. 29,236. The cost per pupil in an Upper Primary school averaged, in Eastern Bengal, Rs. 3-5-10 and, in Assam, Rs. 5-3-4, and that in a Lower Primary school Rs. 2-4-2 in Eastern Bengal and Rs. 3-1-3 in Assam. The average annual cost of maintaining

a Lower Primary school was Rs. 62-13-10 in Eastern Bengal, and Rs. 107-10-9 in Assam. Each school in Eastern Bengal had on the average 27·7, and, in Assam, 34·9 pupils. One hundred and one Upper Primary scholarships and 380 Lower Primary scholarships in Eastern Bengal, and 49 and 174 in Assam were awarded during the year

Special Instruction. Instruction in teaching.

817. Under this head are included training schools and classes for teachers, and schools for technical instruction. There were 49 training institutions at the end of the year, as against 47, *viz.*, 44 State schools, 4 aided, and 1 unaided school. Pupils attending them increased from 1,119 to 1,218, and the total cost from Rs. 63,581 to Rs. 73,874. In addition to this, 133 pupils were trained under the apprentice system in the Surma Valley and 5 in the Assam Valley. Out of the total number of 1,384 stipend-holders, 441 passed out during the year. The cost per trained teacher (excluding the non-stipendiary students) was Rs. 182-2. Examination results were good at Rangpur, and in the first-grade certificate examination at Chittagong. Second-grade results were for the most part poor.

Medical Schools.

818. The number of students attending the Dacca Medical School and the Berry-White School at Dibrugarh rose from 275 to 291—a slight decrease at Dacca, but a large increase, from 96 to 125, at Dibrugarh. There were during the year 24 male and 6 female scholarship-holders at Dacca, and 12 Muhammadans were half supported from the Mohsin Fund. At the Berry-White School 18 students, including two Khasis and one Naga, held scholarships, and 24 were free students. Thirty-eight and eighteen of the students presented at the second license examination from Dacca and Dibrugarh were successful, representing 70·37 and 90 per cent. of the examinees, respectively. The Dacca school cost Rs. 26,808 and the Berry-White school Rs. 33,423.

Engineering Schools.

819. In the Dacca Engineering College there were 289 pupils on the rolls, against 189 in the previous year. Of 45 pupils who appeared in the Sub-Overseer Examination, 30 were successful, and of 6 who appeared in the Overseer Examination, 4 were successful. In the Aminship Examination 53 passed out of 56 presented, and, in the Smithy Final Examination, 34 out of 38. Expenditure rose from Rs. 22,620 to Rs. 36,941, of which Rs. 30,104 was met from Provincial revenues, the increase being due mostly to the appointment of a highly-qualified head master and teachers on higher rates of pay. The cost per pupil was Rs. 104-2-9.

"B" classes.

820. There were 173 pupils enrolled in "B." classes attached to six schools in the province at the close of the year. Twenty-two passed the examination from all the schools.

Technical Schools.

821. There were 556 pupils attending the 5 technical schools, and 18 candidates passed the Final Artizan Examination, and 31 the Sub-Overseer Examination. The total cost of these five institutions was Rs. 34,465, defrayed from Provincial grants, Local Funds, and fees.

Apprenticeships.

822. There are two apprenticeships held in the Railway workshop at Chittagong and 16 lads were admitted to Williamson apprenticeships during the year, against 10 in the previous year.

Legal Education.

823. Sixty-five candidates presented themselves from the Law classes attached to the Government Colleges for the B. L. Examination, and only 8 passed, against 78 candidates and 35 passes of the preceding year. Fifteen candidates appeared from the unaided College at Barisal, and only one passed.

Female Education.

824. Female schools of all classes rose from 2,475 to 2,571, or by nearly 4 per cent. The number of girls under instruction increased from 60,357 to 63,973, of whom ·06 attended High classes, ·12 per cent. Middle, ·65 per cent. Upper Primary, 36·75 per cent. three upper classes of Lower Primary, and 60·25 per cent. lower classes of Lower Primary schools. Two girls passed the Entrance Examination, 19 the Middle school standard, 62 the Upper Primary school, 580 the Lower Primary standard. The total expenditure on female education was Rs. 1,12,700. In the present year 17 State scholarships were held in Dacca Division, 5 in Rajshahi, 12 in Chittagong, 4 in Surma Valley, and 4 in Assam Valley Divisions.

Education of Europeans and Eurasians.

825. The number of boys in the seven schools for Europeans and Eurasians in the province increased from 411 to 423, but the attendance showed a decrease. The total cost, including indirect expenditure, of the schools rose from Rs. 29,933 to Rs. 36,628, of which Government contributed Rs. 14,196 (nearly 39·0 per cent.), the Railway Companies Rs. 1,221, Mission funds Rs. 1,685, and fees Rs. 3,394. Of 10 candidates presented at examinations, all failed.

Muhammadans.

826. Muhammadans under instruction in public and private institutions increased by 10,658, or nearly 3·4 per cent. The proportion of Muhammadan pupils advanced from 51·9 per cent. of all under instruction to nearly 52·1 per cent., an increase of about 0·2 per cent. Sixty per cent. attended Lower Primary schools, 46·1 Upper Primary

schools, 33·2 Middle Vernacular schools, 31·1 Middle English schools, and 16·6 High schools. In Colleges the Muhammadan pupils numbered only 5·4 per cent. and, in Training schools, the proportion rose from 41·2 to 47 per cent. Twelve Muhammadan boys passed the F. A. Examination and 49 the Entrance. Eight passed the Medical School Examination, 15 the Engineering and Survey Examinations, and 31 the Vernacular Mastership Examination.

Private institutions.

The number of private institutions (a few teaching advanced Arabic and Sanskrit, the majority petty *Koran* schools and *tols*) was 3,777, and that of pupils 70,616. Only 8 pupils were reported to have passed title-conferring examinations. These figures are, however, incomplete.

Hostels.

827. The number of hostels, attached to State and all other kinds of institutions, was 153 for male, and 5 for female pupils. The boarders living in the former were 3,139 and in the latter 122. Of the total expenditure of Rs. 1,51,274, the sum of Rs. 91,850 was met from charges from the pupils, and of the rest, Rs. 26,501 were debited to Provincial revenues, Rs. 1,787 to Local Funds, and Rs. 31,136 to endowments and subscriptions. Twenty-nine hostels were managed by Government, and were attached to Government Madrassas, to the Cotton College, and to the zilla schools in Assam, etc. The cost per head in hostels of all kinds was just over Rs. 46.

Physical training.

828. A particularly pleasant feature of Eastern Bengal schools is the keenness displayed by the pupils in games, especially football, for which clubs are very numerous. In Assam, however, systematised games have not yet taken root to the same extent.

Discipline.

829. Among the boys there were, during the year, cases of taking out fraudulent certificates in connection with transfers, etc., and of ordinary misconduct; but the most regrettable feature of the year was the outbreak of disturbances in some of the schools of Eastern Bengal, largely due to political agitation, which displayed the spirit of indiscipline prevailing in them and the slender props by which authority is maintained.

SECTION 3.—Literature and the Press.

Literary works.

830. The total number of publications registered in Assam during the year under Act XXV of 1867, as amended by Act X of 1890, was 45, against 21 in the preceding year. Of these, 14 were educational and 31 non-educational works; 38 were first editions, 1 a new edition, and 6 republications. Twenty-three of these books were in Assamese, 8 in Khasi, 8 in Bengali, one in English, and three were bilingual publications. The number of copies of educational works rose from 8,000 in 1904 to 5,500 in 1905, and that of the non-educational works from 13,300 to 25,400. The publications registered during the year are classified below according to the subjects dealt with—

	Number of publications.
(1) Language	12
(2) Poetry	9
(3) History	1
(4) Drama	2
(5) Religion	15
(6) Biography	4
(7) Medicine	1
(8) Miscellaneous	1
Total	45

The copy-right of five books (three on religion, one on biography, and one on poetry) was registered during the year.

831. In Eastern Bengal 339 books were registered, of which 58 were in English and 281 were in Vernacular.

Newspapers.

832. There were 8 newspapers in English published during the year in the province, 2 in Anglo-Vernacular, and 35 in Vernacular. None of them calls for any special notice.

SECTION 4.—Scientific and Literary Societies in Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Societies in Eastern Bengal.

833. There were during the year twenty-nine societies for literary and scientific purposes in Eastern Bengal. They were attended by 6,158 visitors. No such societies of any importance exist in Assam.

Chittagong Division.

834. There are seven societies in the Chittagong Division, of which four are libraries intended to create a taste for literary and scientific studies. The most popular of these seems to be the Bucklandghat Public Library and Reading Room at Chittagong. One society alone, *viz.*, the Lea Islamia Reading Room, has for its object the spread of Muhammadan education.

Dacca Division.

835. The Dacca Division possesses ten such associations. The greater part of these denote themselves to the spread of literary and general culture. Two of them, which deserve special notice, are the Bakarganj Hitaishini Sahba and the Faridpur Surhid Sabha. One of their main objects is the spread of female education. The East Bengal Saraswat Somaj aims at the improvement of Sanskrit learning.

Rajshahi Division.

836. Of the 12 societies in the Rajshahi Division, the majority are constituted for the cultivation of literary tastes or for social and moral improvement. The most prominent of these is the Central National Muhammadan Association (Rangpur Branch), the object of which is to improve the condition of the Muhammadans in the district and to spread Primary education through the *maktabs*. There is only another Muhammadan society in the division, *viz.*, the Malda Muhammadan Association. It was started for the political, social, and educational improvement of the Muhammadans in the district.

SECTION 5.—Arts and Sciences.

Nil.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

Work done during the year.

837. The most interesting ruins in the province are found in the Malda district of the Rajshahi Division. Some of these, *viz.*, the Dakhil gate, the Golden mosque, the Kadum Rasul, the Minar Lotton and Tantipara mosques, the *Bara darwaja* and two tombs at Gaur, and the Adina mosque, the Eklakhi Mausoleum and the Sona Masjid at Pandua, have been selected by the Archæological Surveyor, Bengal Circle, as being worthy of preservation, and the work of restoration, which has been in progress for the last three years, was continued during the year. The ruins at Dimapur are, in the same officer's opinion, the most interesting remains in Assam and unique in India. In accordance with his instructions, the restoration of the broken monoliths in the main group of ruins has been taken in hand and is now in progress. The undergrowth over the whole area of the old enclosure that has been traced is being cleared.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

Bishop of Calcutta and Archdeacon of Calcutta, 1814.

838. The Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam lies within the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Bishop of Calcutta. By the Statute 53, Geo. III, Chapter 155, provision was made for the appointment of a single Bishop for the whole of India, and the Sovereign was empowered to grant to the Bishop such ecclesiastical jurisdiction and the exercise of such episcopal functions as His Majesty might think necessary for the administration of holy ceremonies and for the superintendence and good government of the Ministers of the Church establishment. Under the authority of this statute, letters patent for the Bishopric of Calcutta were issued under the date of the 2nd of May 1814, establishing the See of Calcutta, subordinate to the Archiepiscopal See of the Province of Canterbury and constituting the Archdeaconry of Calcutta. The Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta and the Members of the Council were appointed the King's Commissioners delegate to hear appeals from the decisions of the Bishop and his Commissaries.

Bishop of Calcutta Metropolitan, 1835.

839. The Statutes 3 and 4, Will. IV, Chapter 85, empowered the Sovereign to found and constitute the Bishoprics of Madras and Bombay, and constituted the Bishop of Calcutta Metropolitan. In 1835, the Bishoprics of Madras and Bombay were accordingly constituted by Letters Patent, leaving the Metropolitan jurisdiction with the Bishop of Calcutta.

Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872.

840. Under the Indian Christian Marriage Act of 1872, the Local Government has power to give licenses to ministers of religion to solemnize marriages, to appoint marriage registrars, and to license persons to grant certificates of marriage between Christians, but in other respects it exercises no ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical.

841. The Ecclesiastical establishment in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam consists of the Chaplains of Shillong, Darrang, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Saidpur, Dacca Chittagong, and Silchar. Of these, the Chaplain of Shillong is paid entirely by Government, and the other Chaplains receive an allowance from Government varying from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 a month. The Government of India have recently sanctioned a Chaplain paid entirely by Government for the charge of Dacca.

SECTION 3.—Stationery.

842. The cost of stationery supplied during the year by the Controller of Stationery, Calcutta, to officers of this Government was Rs. 1,20,885-8-0.

SECTION 4.—Printing.

843. The total receipts of the Secretariat Press increased from Rs. 1,027 to Rs. 2,215 (including Rs. 94 for inter-departmental services rendered), and the expenditure from Rs. 76,061 to Rs. 88,493. The total value of work done was Rs. 1,37,566 compared with Rs. 1,26,820 in the previous year. The expenditure includes Rs. 13,995 spent on work done by the Vandyke process and litho printing.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* Report on the Civil Veterinary Administration of Eastern Bengal and Assam for the year ending the 31st March 1906.]

Veterinary Instruction.

844. The Local Government awards annually to students from Assam five scholarships tenable at the Bengal Veterinary College, Belgachia. Five students were nominated to these scholarships by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture on the

recommendation of the Local Boards of North Sylhet, Gauhati, Jorhat, Sibsagar, and Dibrugarh. The present number of students holding these scholarships is—

In the third year	1
In the second year	4
In the first year	5

Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries.

845. There are eight Veterinary dispensaries in the province, which are doing useful work.

Epidemic diseases.

846. Serious outbreaks of rinderpest occurred during the year in the Assam Valley and in the Surma Valley. Glanders broke out among the tonga ponies on the Shillong road, and one case was reported from Dibrugarh. Foot-and-mouth disease occurred in an epidemic form in Nowgong, Tezpur, and Lower Assam.

Rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease are the principal diseases of cattle in Eastern Bengal; neither disease broke out in a virulent form during the year, except in Chittagong, where rinderpest occurred. Want of a qualified staff was the great obstacle to efficient prevention of the spread of disease.

Breeding operations.

847. No breeding operations are carried on by Government. There were five breeding bulls belonging to Government at the commencement of the year. Two of these died during the year, and one was sold off as useless. The two remaining bulls are stationed at Shillong and Silchar.

Financial.

848. The cost of maintaining the Department amounted to Rs. 7,692-8-6.

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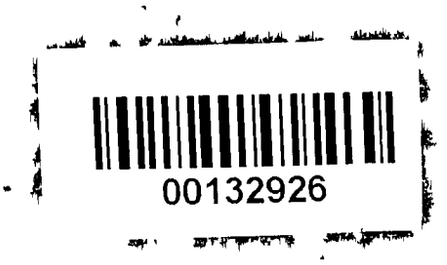
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